



**Weather Vane from the Barn at the Westford Town Farm  
Installed in 1924<sup>1</sup>**

### **WESTFORD TOWN FARM**

Very earliest records are missing at this time, however, the *History of Westford* by Rev. Edwin Hodgman, p. 155, lists Paupers as of March 8, 1799: Benjamin Foster, Samuel Craft,<sup>2</sup> Jeremiah Temple, Elizabeth Keyes, Elizabeth Wilson, Patience Fish, Margaret Craft, Thaddeus Read, Sarah Hildreth, Widow Mary Barrett, Widow Thankful Read, and Nehemiah Fletcher, Jun.

In 1824 the town bought the 170 acre property of John Read's farm for \$2500 to serve as a poor farm. (Middlesex North Registry of Deeds MNRD, book 11, page 650)

Forge Village. From Capt. David Prescott Lawrence, "Where the poor house now stands was an old house owned and occupied by Dea. John Prescott, son of Jonas, above named, who exchanged property with John Read, and Read sold it to the town." (Hodgman, p. 353)

The deed was transacted May 12, 1824 (and recorded June 7, 1824). It included "Land and buildings westerly part of Westford containing 170 acres more or less... It being the same premises including other lands conveyed to me by John Prescott by deed of June 23, 1818." (Westford Book/deed book 11, p. 650).

"On the first day of November [1824] they Eliakim Hutchins, Samuel Richardson, Zaccheus Read and John Abbot] made two reports, one in regard to stocking the farm, and one comprising "Bye-Laws, or Orders and Regulations of Westford Workhouse." (*History of Westford*, p. 179). The document is located in the Town of Westford archives.

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<sup>1</sup> Property of the Westford Historical Society, W.1983.21.1. Dimensions: 24" nose to tail; and 12" tall.

<sup>2</sup> **Samuel Craft**, b. at Westford in 1737, served in the American Revolution. He m. (1) at Westford in 1767, Margaret Parrot. Samuel m. (2) at Boston in 1784, Esther Jewett. After Samuel's death, Esther m. in 1813, Isaac Patch.

**Bye Laws  
Or  
Orders and regulations of Westford work house<sup>3</sup>**

**Article 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Sec. 1. The overseers of the poor shall have the inspection and government of the work house, with full power to appoint a master and needful assistants; the said master to be a man of temperance, providence, and good moral character.
- Sec. 2. The overseers or a major part of them, shall assemble together at the work house on the first Saturday of every other month at two of the clock in the afternoon, at their stated meetings, to consider and order whatever they may judge proper, relative to said house; and also one at least of said overseers shall visit said house on Saturday in every fortnight, other than the said first Saturday in every other month, to order whatever such visitor shall judge expedient, and to see that the orders and regulations of said work house are strictly observed.
- Sec. 3. Whenever any person shall be sent to said work house by an order in writing of one or more of the said overseers, or by any Justice of the Peace on complaint, it shall be the duty of the master to receive such person into said work house, and there support and employ such person agreeable to the orders and regulations thereof.
- Sec. 4. The said overseers shall at all times vigilantly and faithfully discharge all the duties of their office, and from time to time make all such orders and regulations for said house, as to them shall appear needful or expedient, and their acts and doings shall be recorded.

**Article 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

- Sec. 1. The master of said house shall have the immediate care and oversight of all persons received into the same, or employed therein, and shall support, govern, manage, and employ them, as the overseers of the poor shall order and direct, according to the rules and regulations thereof, otherwise, according to his best judgment and discretion.
- Sec. 2. The said master shall keep a book, wherein the names of all persons received into said house, and the time when received and dismissed, shall be recorded; also a book of accounts containing the debt and credit of all matters and things whatever, relating to said work house and the farm belonging to the same and the same lay before said overseers whenever there unto requested, provided that this section may be wholly or in part dispensed with, as said overseers may see fit, whenever said master may be under a contract with the town for the support of the poor.
- Sec. 3. The said master shall also keep an Inventory of all farming tools, house hold furniture, beds and bedding and other property in said house or on said farm, belonging to the town, and the same inventory exhibit to said overseers or any one of them whenever thereunto requested.
- Sec. 4. The master shall furnish suitable food, lodging, and apparel for all persons received into said house; attend to the reasonable wants of the sick or infirm; and provide employment for all capable of labor, rewarding the faithful and industrious with suitable favors and indulgences, and rendering kind treatment, to all, who behave well; but he is fully empowered to punish, at his

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<sup>3</sup> The original document is located in tin box 46-1 at the Westford Town Hall. Reference to this document may be seen on pages 178 and 179 of the *History of the Town of Westford*, by Rev. Edwin Hodgman. Based on that section of the town history, which says, "On the first day of November they made two reports, one in regard to stocking the farm, and one comprising 'Bye-laws, or Orders and Regulations of Westford Workhouse,' this document should be dated 1 November 1824.

descretion, the idle, stubborn, disorderly and disobedient, by immediate confinement without any food other, than bread and water.

- Sec. 5. The master of the said workhouse shall constantly cause the furniture thereof and also the said house, and land contiguous to be same, to be kept neat, clean, and in good order, and shall cause habits of neatness, cleanliness, and decency to be strictly observed by all persons, who may be received into said house.
- Sec. 6. The said master shall cause all poor children, under his care, to attend school, whenever, and as constantly as may be convenient; and shall require the orders and regulations of said house to be respected and obeyed by all persons therein; and the Lord's day to be strictly observed and kept.

### **Article 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

- Sec. 1. Every person, who may be received into said house, or be a member thereof, must obey the orders and regulations thereof, and the commands of the master, and will be required by him diligently to work and labor daily, as he shall direct according to age, health and capacity.
- Sec. 2. The hour for retiring to bed shall be nine of the clock P.M. in summer, and eight of the clock P.M. in winter, and the time for rising from bed shall be the rising of the sun through the year, and all persons in health, who shall not comply herewith, shall be deemed disorderly, and liable to punishment.
- Sec. 3. The hour for breakfast, dinner, and supper shall be established by the master, and every person, absent at meal time, without sufficient excuse in the opinion of the master, may be deprived of his or her food till next meal time; provided however that suitable food and necessaries shall be provided and served to every sick and infirm person at his or her apartment, whenever necessary.
- Sec. 4. Every person aforesaid, who shall absent him or herself from said house, and appendages thereof, and farm thereto belonging, or go without the limits thereof, without leave of the master, or shall conceal him or herself from the master, shall be deemed to be an idle, stubborn and disorderly person, and punished accordingly.
- Sec. 5. The use of all liquors, and any liquors, part of which is spirituous, is strictly prohibited, except when the master, physician, or overseers shall order it, and no person aforesaid shall be allowed to have or keep any such liquor or liquors in his or her possession or bring or receive the same into said house without orders aforesaid.

### **Article 4<sup>th</sup>.**

- Sec. 1. The diet and living of persons received into said house shall be as nearly as conveniently may be, as follows, to wit:

For breakfast and supper hasty pudding and milk or molasses, bread and milk, or milk porridge, except on Sunday, when minced meat & bread and bohea tea may be served; and for dinner on each day of the week as follows, to wit:

Sunday – Baked meat and beans and Indian pudding  
Monday – Salt fish and potatoes  
Tuesday – Boiled salt meat & vegetables  
Wednesday – Roasted or baked meat & vegetables  
Thursday – Soup  
Friday – Stewed beans or peas  
Saturday – Boiled salt meat and vegetables  
and sufficient quantity of bread, beer  
or water at all meals.

Eliakim Hutchins  
Samuel Richardson      Committee  
Zaccheus Read  
John Abbot

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On July 30, 2002, Earl Carter from Groton brought two journals of the Westford town farm and donated them to the Westford Historical Society. He had acquired them from a yard sale. These journals are dated 1828 and 1829 and are listings of inmates, accounts of things bought for the farm beginning with March 10, 1828 through Feb. 1845, and accounts by vendor.

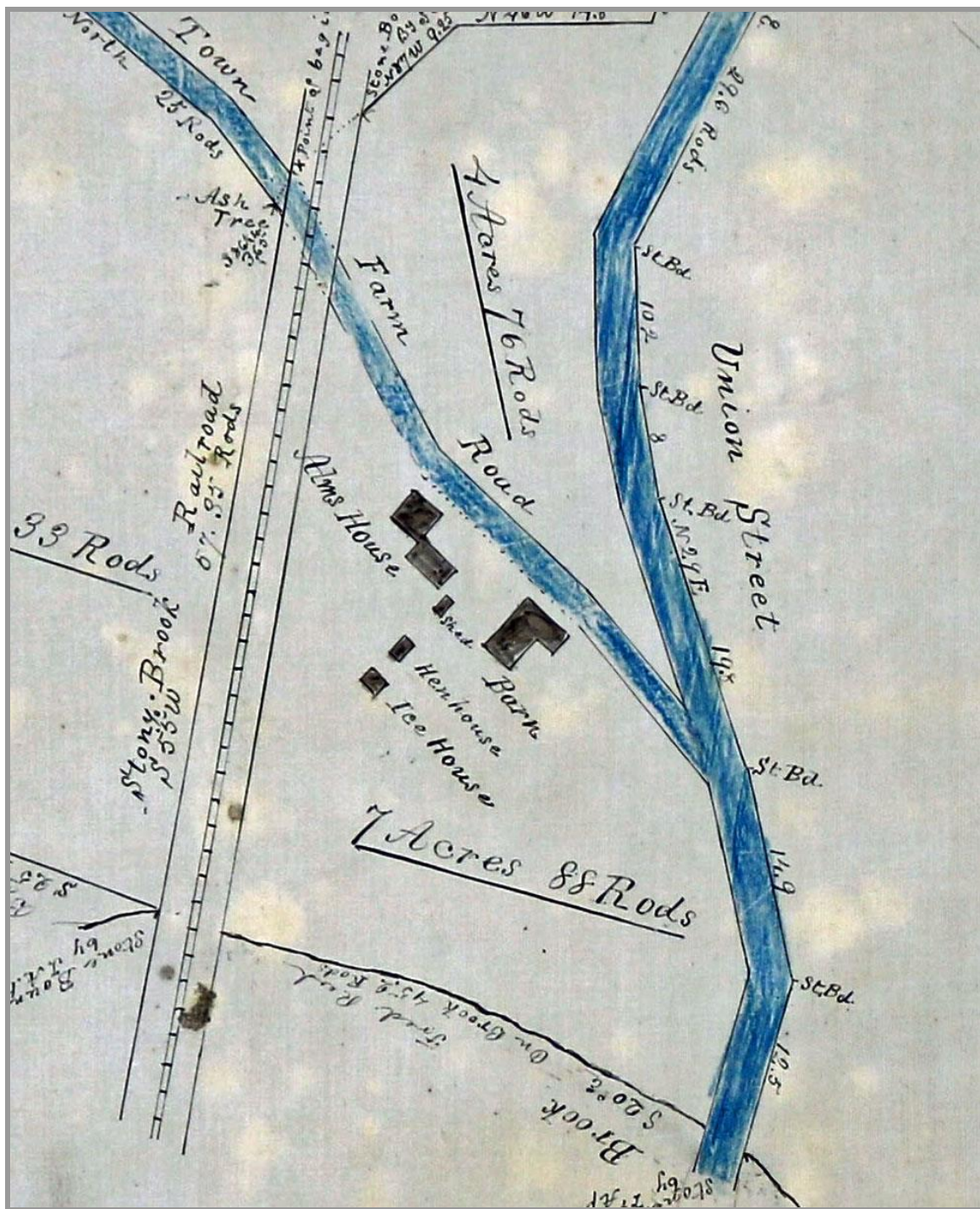
The 1819 Revolutionary War Pension application papers (S.32938) of Jonas Kemp<sup>4</sup> of Westford give us the names of the Overseers of the Poor that year. "To whom it may concern, we the subscriber selectmen and overseers of the poor in the town of Westford in Mass. do certify that Jonas Kemp who (it is said) was a soldier in the time of the Revolution is now a poor person in indigent circumstances. Westford, May 5, 1819. Signed Saml Wright, Jr., Imla Goodhue and Thomas Hildreth."

In 1837 the town built a new building on the same site by Daniel W. Hartwell. (Hodgman, p. 181). The master at this time was Mr. Parker.

On April 3, 1837, it was voted to choose a building committee of five persons to superintend the building of a poor-house (Hodgman, p. 181). That committee consisted of Abram Prescott, Levi Heywood, Asia Nutting, Samuel H. Nichols and Horatio Fletcher. They recommended a house 39' by 40', two stories high, with buttery and well-room in the shed. It was built in the summer and autumn of 1837. The contractor, Daniel W. Hartwell, failed to finish it by October 20, the agreed-upon time. The committee was instructed by vote of November 13, that they superintend the finishing of it and settle with Mr. Hartwell as they thought fit. Hartwell had agreed to build it for \$2400, but the committee allowed the additional sum of \$37.40 and finished it at a total expense for the house and shed of \$3002.45. On April 2, 1838 the overseers were authorized to buy new furniture for the house.

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<sup>4</sup> **Jonas Kemp**, b. at Groton, Mass., 27 July 1760, d. 18 Sept. 1835, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Gilson) Kemp. Jonas m. at Groton in 1783, **Mary/Molly (Nutting) Kemp** who d. at Shirley, Mass., 15 Sept. 1845. She was a pensioner under Jonas's service (W.21508). From page 2 of the *Boston Evening Transcript*, 29 Sept. 1845, "At Shirley, Sept. 15, Mrs MOLLY KEMP, 93, widow of Jonas Kemp a revolutionary soldier." The *History of the Town of Westford*, p. 456 states, "Kemp. This family came here from Chelmsford and Billerica. It has been somewhat noted for the pauperism of its members, many of them being supported for long periods by the town."



Surveyed for the Overseers of the Poor, Leonard Wheeler, C. R. P. Decatur, and Arthur Burnham, April 1903. Drawn by T. E. Symmes. This is a portion of the 158 acre parcel showing the town farm buildings. (From the Westford Book of Town Plans at the WHS)





Photograph by C. E. Powers, 63 Main Street, Nashua, N.H. Date about 1893.

The Superintendents of the Westford Almshouse were also called Keepers and/or Masters of the town farm. Their wives were the Matrons. The title of Superintendent of Almshouse was used through 1908. And then there was the title called Keeper of the Lock-up.

Expenses	1839, Poor House Building Committee: Samuel Fletcher, T. P. Wright, Samuel H. Nichols. "The number of persons assisted in and out of the poor-house, between the first day of March, 1839, and the eighth day of February, 1840, was fifty-five." [Hodgman, p, 181]
Expenses	1840, Theodore Wells was paid \$2.33 for visits and medicines. 1840, Samuel Fletcher was paid \$4.75 for "bringing back N. Pierce [Nancy Pierce] and hiring farmer." [This is Gilbert Farmer]

The first two Masters of the town farm from the *History of Westford*, p.179, were Jonathan Hosmer and Otis Haywood.

**WANTED,**

**A** SUITABLE person with his wife, or unmarried, to take charge, on the first of March next, and carry on a Farm, situate in *Westford*, on which the Poor of said town are to be maintained. The farm will be stocked by the town. Any person desirous of engaging, will, by writing, or otherwise, apply for information and terms to ELIAKIM HUTCHINS, SAMUEL RICHARDSON, ZACCHEUS REED, or JOHN ABBOT.

*Westford, Oct. 2, 1824. 45tf.*

From the *Concord Gazette and Middlesex Yeoman*, 2 Oct. 1824, p. 3

**WANTED.**

**A** MAN and his WIFE of sober and industrious habits to take charge of the POOR, superintend and carry on the *Town Farm* in *Westford* for one year, commencing March 10th, 1836. Proposals written or verbal, will be received by the subscribers until Feb. 10th, for the same. Good recommendations will be required.

JONATHAN PRESCOTT, } *Overseers*  
 HORATIO FLETCHER, } *of*  
 HENRY A. PRESCOTT, } *the Poor.*

*Westford, Jan. 1, 1836. 3w*

From the *Lowell Patriot*, 8, 15 and 22 Jan. 1836.

1824	Jonathan Hosmer
1837 - 1839	Joel Parker <sup>5</sup>
1840	Otis Haywood <sup>6</sup> [Hayward?] Othiel Fletcher was master for six months.
1841 - 1842	Gilbert Farmer <sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> **Joel Parker.** He may be the Joel Parker, b. at Westford in 1799 who d. at Concord, Mass. in 1855, son of Benjamin and Betsy (Read) Parker. Joel m. at Concord, in 1826, Betsy Chapin (1803-1882). In 1839, Joel Parker was paid \$250 for services as master. He and Betsy are interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford, as are his parents.

<sup>6</sup> There was an **Otis Hayward**, b. in 1792 who d. at Hudson, Mass., in 1882. Otis m. at Boxboro, Mass. in 1818, Lucy Fletcher (1799-1870). They had a son, Otis Fletcher Hayward (spelled Heyward), b. at Westford in 1829. An Otis Hayward was listed in Westford in 1830 with 11 males and 14 females at his residence. In 1850 he was in Concord, Mass., running a boarding house. His death record called him a hotel keeper.

<sup>7</sup> **Gilbert Farmer**, b. at Tewksbury, 14 March 1802, d. at Evanston, Ill., 30 April 1873, son of Silas and Rhoda (Griffin) Farmer. Gilbert m. at Westford, 30 Oct. 1832, Mary Wright, b. at Westford, 1 Nov. 1801, d. at Lowell, 29 April 1857, dau. of Stephen and Sarah (Prescott) Wright. Gilbert and Mary are interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

1843 - 1844	Wm. S. Nutting <sup>8</sup> “Wages for one year	\$225.”
1845 - 1850	Solomon Nutting <sup>9</sup>	
1855	Willis Wilder <sup>10</sup>	

**W**ANTED,—A man and his wife, to take charge of the Poor Farm of Westford for one year from the first day of April next. Proposals received until the 10th day of March next, by the Overseers of the poor of the town of Westford.

N. S. HAMBLIN,	} Overseers of Poor of Westford.
WILLIAM REED,	
JOSEPH HILDRETH,	

Westford, Feb. 13, 1858. 4w#

From the *New England Farmer*, 13 Feb. 1858, p. 3

1859 - 1860	George Reed <sup>11</sup>
1861 - 1864	N. P. Chase <sup>12</sup> Nathan P. Chase
1865 - 1869	Ward Coburn <sup>13</sup>
1869 - 1870	John L. Morrill <sup>14</sup> (sic Morrell)
1871 - 1874	J. R. Bagley <sup>15</sup> John R. Bagley
1875 - 1876	D. W. & Arvilla Smith <sup>16</sup>
1877 - 1879	J. H. Bradley <sup>17</sup> Josiah H. Bradley

<sup>8</sup> Possibly **William Stewart Nutting**, b. at Groton, 14 Nov. 1806, son of Phinehas and Susannah (Page) Nutting.

<sup>9</sup> **Solomon Nutting**, b. at Groton, in 1800, d. there in 1881. In the 1850 census, Solomon was listed as master of the almshouse in Westford. His wife was Roxanna Blood (1802-1867). By 1855 they were back in Groton. They are interred in the Groton cemetery.

<sup>10</sup> **Willis Wilder**, b. in Vermont, abt. 1803. He and his wife Laura (Huston) Wilder, b. abt. at Vermont, abt. 1802 were master and matron of the Westford poor farm in 1855. By 1860, they were working at the Groton poor farm. Laura d. at Fond du Lac, Wisc. in 1893 and is interred there.

<sup>11</sup> **George Reed**, b. at Acton, 27 June 1819, d. 28 March 1890 at Westford, son of Barnard and Mary (Handley) Reed. George m. at Lowell, in 1856 Mary E. Leavitt, b. at Clinton, Maine, in 1827, who d. at Lowell, 19 Dec. 1909, dau. of Nathan and Elizabeth (Hanson) Leavitt. George and Mary are interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>12</sup> **Nathan P. Chase**, b. abt. 1815 at N.H., d. at Vt., in 1893. By 1870, Nathan, listed as a farm laborer, and his wife Mary J. (Whidden) Chase, listed as a domestic servant, were working at the Mass. State Almshouse, Tewksbury. Nathan and Mary are interred in Pleasant View Cemetery, Londonderry, N.H.

<sup>13</sup> **Ward Coburn**, b. at Tyngsboro, 5 Jan. 1813, d. at Westford, 4 Dec. 1879, son of Reuben and Sarah (Spalding) Coburn. Ward m. at Tyngsboro in 1833, Sybil Thurlo (1816-1881). “Ward Coburn, aged 60 years, was killed at Westford, Mass., Thursday, by a lathe falling on him.” (*Evening Bulletin*, Prov., R.I., 5 Dec. 1879)

<sup>14</sup> In 1869, **John L. Morrell** was Master of the Almshouse in Westford. He received \$400 for his services from 1 April 1869 to 1870. John was born abt. 1822 at Maine. In 1860, he and his wife, Lucinda, born at N.H., abt. 1823, were master and matron of the poor farm in Dracut, and in 1870, he was Overseer of the Town Farm and House of Correction in Nashua.

<sup>15</sup> **Jonathan R. Bagley**, also seen as Jotham, b. at N.H. in 1820, d. at Londonderry, N.H. in 1900. He was a captain in the Civil War, serving in the Co. K, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, N.H. Infantry. His wife was Martha J. Howland (1824-1891). They are interred in Valley Cemetery, Londonderry.

<sup>16</sup> **Daniel W. Smith**, b. at Maine abt. 1826, d. at Westford, 11 Dec. 1876. Daniel m. at Maine, Elvira Hines. After his death, Elvira went to Providence, R.I. to live with her married daughter, Louisa Mary Nutting, wife of Edgar F. Nutting. Daniel Smith is interred in Fairview beside his mother-in-law, Louisa Hines. Elvira d. at Providence in 1911.

<sup>17</sup> **Josiah H. Bradley**, b. at Vt., in 1817, d. at Littleton, in 1890. His wife, Mary Jefferds, also d. there in 1890. After serving in Westford, by 1880, they were master and matron at the Littleton Poor Farm.



1880 - 1887	Henry D. Pierce <sup>18</sup>
1888 - 1889	Superintendent of Repairs on Highways and Keeper of the Almshouse - Henry D. Pierce
1890 - 1893	Henry B. Ruiter <sup>19</sup>
1894 - 1905,	Samuel H. Balch <sup>1</sup>
1906 - 1912	Edson G. Boynton <sup>2</sup>
1913 - 1916	Harvey W. Barnes <sup>20</sup>
1918 - 1922	Charles T. Ripley, <sup>3</sup> Superintendent of Town Farm (no Lock-up position)
1923 - 1925	Herbert M. Kendall <sup>21</sup>
1926	Henry H. Pillman <sup>22</sup>
1927 - 1928	Charles D. Felch <sup>23</sup>
1929	George E. Maynard <sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> **Henry D. Pierce**, b. at Keene, N.H., in 1839, d. at Brattleboro, Vt., in 1923, son of Daniel and Alvira (Black) Pierce. Henry m. in 1863, Mary A. Starkey (1840-1893). In 1880, Henry was superintendent of the Westford town farm. His wife and two of their children were living there. In 1889, he was back in Westmoreland, N.H., where "The services of Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Pierce of Westford, Mass., have been secured as Superintendent and Matron of the County Farm and Almshouse." (Cheshire County Reports, 1888/89, p. 140) They are interred in Spofford Cemetery, Spofford, N.H.

<sup>19</sup> **Henry B. Ruiter**. As early as 1880, Henry was listed as a Farm Laborer at the town farm. He had just entered the U.S. from Canada and filed his citizenship application from Westford which was signed by Wesley O. Hawkes and Isaac W. Carlin. He served as Superintendent of the Almshouse from 1890-1894. He d. at Lowell in 1942 and was interred with his wife Emma (Britch) Ruiter in Meadow View Cemetery, Amherst, N.H.

<sup>20</sup> **Harvey Woodruff Barnes**, b. at Evans Mills, N.Y., in 1846, d. at Lowell, 21 Dec. 1921. He was married to Margaret Spafford (1859-1924). Harvey's death notice from the *Lowell Sun* of the same date stated, "Barnes - Died Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 19 Dayton street. Harvey W. Barnes, aged 75 years. He leaves his wife, Margaret A. Barnes, and one son, Percy R. C. Barnes. Mr. Barnes was a well known farmer, and formerly had charge of the town farms at Tewksbury and Dracut." He is interred in Woodbine Cemetery, Lowell. From the Westford Wardsman of 24 Dec. 1921, "Center. Harvey W. Barnes died at his home in Lowell on Wednesday after a long and trying illness, aged seventy-six years. Mr. Barnes will be remembered as superintendent of the town farm for five years, where he preceded Mr. Ripley. Mr. Barnes was a genial and capable man and well liked in the community during his residence here. He is survived by his wife and a son, Percy Barnes. Funeral services were held at his home on Friday. Harry M. Ingalls, of this village, was one of the bearers."

<sup>21</sup> **Herbert M. Kendall**, b. at Dracut in 1867, d. at Tyngsboro, 23 Feb. 1943. His wife was Elizabeth M. Sanborn. His obituary from the *Lowell Sun* of 24 Feb. 1943 said he was a former manager of the Billerica Town Farm and also the Westford Town Farm.

<sup>22</sup> **Henry Herbert Pillman**, b. at P.E.I., Canada in 1871, d. at Pepperell in 1953. He m. (2) at Lowell in 1911, as her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Ada (Vidito) Drew, b. at Nova Scotia, abt. 1864, d. at Ayer in 1945. The *Lowell Sun* of 10 March 1926 reported, "Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Pillman of Ayer were appointed superintendent and matron, respectively, of the Westford home by the Westford Overseers of the Poor at their recent meeting. They will take over their new duties April 1." The Pillmans were not invited to stay the following year. Henry is interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ayer.

<sup>23</sup> **Charles Dutton Felch**, b. at Tyngsboro, 2 Sept. 1868, d. at Roxbury, 30 March 1935, son of John P. and Ann Maria (Kendall) Felch. Charles m. at Rockland, Maine, in 1897, Martha Turner (1868-1940) of Rockland, Maine. He and his wife were listed as superintendent of the Westford Home in 1927, replacing Mr. Pillman. His obituary from the *Fitchburg Sentinel* of 2 April 1935 stated that he and his wife had served as superintendent and matron of infirmaries in several places and had been in Wrentham since 1929. Among his many survivors was a sister Mrs. Ralph [Lizzie Maria] Bridgford of Westford.

<sup>24</sup> **George E. Maynard**, b. at Vermont, abt. 1877, d. at Worcester in 1936. In 1920, George and his wife Carrie E. (Ricker) Maynard were in charge of the almshouse in Marlboro, Mass. By 1929, they were superintendent and matron of the Westford Town House. All the Westford Annual Report for 1930 said

1930 - 1937	Bert G. Brown <sup>4</sup> – Superintendent of Westford Infirmary
1938 - 1948	Leo J. Connell <sup>25</sup>
1949 - 1959	Maurice B. Rooks, <sup>26</sup> Superintendent of Westford Infirmary, Keeper of the Lockup

**The Lock-up.** There were, and still are, two jail cells in the cellar of the 1900 building. They were put in when the New Ell was built at the town farm. The “Report of Building Committee on New Ell to House at Town Farm, with New Lock-up” states on p. 51, “We have expended between \$500 and \$600 in the basement in putting in cells and tramp rooms and brickwork, and \$375 for plumbing, which amounts to about \$900 more than the estimate.” The overseer’s report from page 65 in the 1900 town report states, “The new ell for the Almshouse has been finished during the past year.”

The number of people in the lockup appears in the Overseer’s reports through 1926 under various terminology, sometimes called arrests, and sometimes called prisoners put in lockup, and in 1916 the category was listed as Prisoners put in Town Lock-up. Starting in 1927, the reports of the Police Department found in town reports listed the numbers held there during each year as “In lockup at town farm.”

Reimbursement for  
keeping prisoners  
Number in lockup

1871	\$2.00
1872	2.25
1891	.50
1897	7.50
1898	5.50
1899	4.00
1900	2.50
1902	2.50
1904	13.50
1905	1.00
1906	3.25

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of them was, “It was necessary to change superintendent and matron and Mr. Bert Brown and wife were hired.”

<sup>25</sup> **Leo James Connell**, b. at Tyngsboro in 1898, d. at Westford in 1992, son of Daniel A. and Mary E. (James) Connell. Leo m. at Westford in 1923, Yvonne Marie Anctil (1901-1993). Leo and Yvonne began their service at the Westford Home in 1938 and served there until 1948. From page 9 of the *Lowell Sun*, 18 Nov. 1968, “... Postmaster Connell will retire after 30 years of public service in Westford. He served for ten years as superintendent of the Westford Infirmary and twenty years as post master of Westford.” Leo and Yvonne are interred in St. Catherine Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>26</sup> **Maurice Bearce Rooks**, b. at Maine in 1900, d. at Ayer in 1983, son of Frank G. and Estella M. (Bearce) Rooks. Maurice m. at Dracut in 1925, Gladys Crocker (1906-1996). In 1930 Maurice, Gladys and children were living in Fitchburg, and by 1940 they were in Westford with their children, Carlton, Warren and Beverly. Maurice and Gladys began their service at the Westford Town Farm in 1949 and served until 1959. They were the final caretakers. They are interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford. Their obituaries may be found on Find-a-Grave.

1907	7.00
1908	4.00
1909	4.50
1910	7.50
1911	5.75
1912	8.50
1913	19.60
1914	15.00
1915	7.75

Year	# in lockup		Year	# in lockup	
1916	14		1939	41	
1917	20		1940	33	
1918	24		1941	31	
1919	6		1942	21	
1920	5		1943	18	
1921	15		1944	21	
1922	14		1945	27	
1923	12		1946	16	
1924	14		1947	21	
1925	20		1948	23	
1926	19		1949	24	
1927	26		1950	12	
1928	15		1951	11	
1929	11		1952	12	
1930	3		1953	14	
1931	7		1954	13	
1932	9		1955	21	
1933	16		1956	16	
1934	26		1957	18	
1935	23		1958	16	
1936	104		1959	18	
1937	52		1960	18	
1938	31				

Names of residents March 10th 1827

John Pushee and his wife<sup>27</sup>

Henery C. Pushee

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<sup>27</sup> John Pushee's wife was **Abigail (Kemp) (Williams) Pushee**.

Betsy Pushee  
 Almira Pushee  
 Gilman Pushee  
 Eleazer Blood and his wife<sup>28</sup>  
 Ephraim Spaulding and his wife<sup>29</sup>  
 Jonas Wright  
 William Reed and his wife  
 Thomas Richardson  
 Hartwell Kemp  
 Calvin T. Cummings  
 Wid. Adams [Elizabeth]  
 Wid. Hildreth [Ruth]  
 Ann Hildreth  
 Patty Cummings  
 Wid. Farwell

April 28, 1828	Luther Hunt <sup>30</sup> this day died at the poor house.
Dec 3, 1828	Mrs. Sally Dudley <sup>31</sup> died aged 65
January 6, 1829	Widow Ruth Hildreth <sup>32</sup> died aged 89
April 24, 1829	Jonas Wright <sup>33</sup> Died Aged 70
July 17, 1829	George Reed <sup>34</sup> died aged 34
Jan 6, 1831	Ephraim Spoilding <sup>35</sup> Died Age 64
Jan 11, 1831	Elizebeth Adams <sup>36</sup> Died Age 95
May 29, 1831	Wid. Mary Farewell <sup>37</sup> Died Aged 86 yrs
Jan 1, 1832	Amaziah Hildreth <sup>38</sup> Died Aged 63

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<sup>28</sup> Eleazer Blood's wife was **Lydia (Fletcher) Blood**.

<sup>29</sup> Ephraim Spaulding's wife was **Hannah (Tarbell) Farmer**. See the footnote for Hannah's death in 1832.

<sup>30</sup> **Luther Hunt**, b. at Westford, 4 Nov 1795, d. at the poor farm, 28 April 1828, son of Simon and Lydia Hunt. On 31 May 1827 Luther was received into the poor house. He was readmitted on 28 July 1827, and discharged in Oct. In Dec. he was again admitted to the poor farm. On 28 March 1828, he ran away from the poor house, was returned by the overseers on April 9 and died there on the 28th. His death was not recorded in Westford VRs.

<sup>31</sup> **Sally (Dutton) Dudley** (twin), b. at Westford, 28 Sept. 1764, who d. there 3 Dec. 1828, dau. of David and Esther (Heald) Dutton. Sarah m. in 1787 John Dudley. He also died at the poor farm 28 June 1843.

<sup>32</sup> Widow **Ruth (Read) Hildreth**, b. at Westford in Jan. 1740, d. there 6 Jan. 1829, dau. of Joseph and Ruth (Underwood) Read. Ruth m. int. 30 May 1761, Amaziah Hildreth.

<sup>33</sup> **Jonas Wright**, born at Westford 6 Feb 1759, d. at the poor farm, 24 April 1829, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Parker) Wright. Jonas m. at Westford in 1783, as her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Rebecca (Boynton) Fletcher b. at Westford in 1783 who d. at the poor farm, 1 Dec. 1833. See Widow Wright who d. in 1833.

<sup>34</sup> **George Reed**, b. abt. 1795, d. at the poor farm 17 July 1829. Parents unidentified.

<sup>35</sup> **Ephraim Spaulding**, b. 28 Feb. 1767, d. 4 Jan. 1831 [Jan. 5 in Westford VRs] age 64. See the footnote for his wife, Hannah (Tarbell) Spaulding who d. there in 1832.

<sup>36</sup> **Elizabeth Blood**, b. at Groton, 2 March 1735-6, d. at Westford, 11 Jan. 1831, dau. of Ebenezer and Abigail (Chamberlain) Blood. Elizabeth m. at Westford, int. 3 Dec. 1756, Samuel Adams, Jr. (spelled Addams in Westford VRs to 1850.) Her death was recorded in Westford VRs as "Adams, \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs., pauper, Jan 14, 1831"

<sup>37</sup> **Widow Farwell**. Mary Lawrence, b. at Westford, 24 Aug. 1749, who d. in 1831, dau. of Samuel and Mary (Hildreth) Lawrence. Mary married at Westford, 2 May 1774, as his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Samuel Farwell. Samuel, b. at Groton in 1738, also died at the poor farm 30 May 1824.

Names of the persons belonging to the poor house Feb 24, 1832

Eleazer Blood and wife [Lydia]	2
John Pushee	1
Widow Wright [Rebecca]	1
Widow Spoulding [Hannah]	1
Abel Brown	1
Thomas Richardson	1
William Richardson	1
Abigail Richardson	1
Hannah Richardson	1
Joseph Patten	1
Patty Comming	1
Joshua Abbot Jewett	1
John Dudley	1
Mary Hildreth	1
Almira Pushee	1
Gilman Pushee	1
Rebecca Chandler	<u>1</u>
	18

June 27, 1832	Hannah Spalding <sup>39</sup> Died Aged 78 yrs
July 21, 1832	Eleazer Blood <sup>40</sup> Died Aged 88 yrs
August 28, 1833	Lydia Blood <sup>41</sup> died aged 76
Sept 18, 1833	Amas Prescott <sup>42</sup> died [Amos]
Dec the 1, 1833	Widow Wright <sup>43</sup> Died [Rebecca]
Dec 22, 1833	William Pool <sup>44</sup> Died Age 24
Feb 2, 1835	Charles Reed <sup>45</sup> Died Age 49

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<sup>38</sup> **Amaziah Hildreth**, b. at Westford 27 Dec. 1772, d. there 1 Jan. 1832, son of Amaziah and Ruth (Read) Hildreth. Amaziah m. at Westford in 1796, Margaret Marstins.

<sup>39</sup> **Hannah (Tarbell) (Farmer) Spaulding**, bpt. at Billerica in 1754, d. at the poor farm, 27 June 1832, dau. of David and Hannah (Fitch) Tarbell. Hannah m. (1) at Dunstable in 1773, Jeremiah Farmer. She m. (2) at Groton, int. 6 May 1801, Ephraim Spaulding who d. in 1831 at the poor farm.

<sup>40</sup> **Eleazer Blood**, b. at Groton, 16 July 1744, d. at the Westford town farm, 21 July 1832, son of Ebenezer and Abigail (Chamberlain) Blood. Eleazer m. at Westford, int. 15 March 1779, **Lydia Fletcher**, b. at Westford, 8 June 1757, who died at the town farm, 28 Aug. 1833, dau. of Reuben and Susannah (Chandler) Fletcher.

<sup>41</sup> **Lydia Fletcher Blood**. See Eleazer Blood's wife, above.

<sup>42</sup> **Amos Prescott**, b. at Westford, 21 Nov. 1771, d. at the town farm, 18 Sept. 1883, son of Timothy and Lydia (Fletcher) Prescott. Amos m. at Westford, 20 Jan. 1795, Polly Emerson (1773-1817). He and Polly are interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>43</sup> **Rebecca Boynton**, b. at Westford, 5 March 1783, who d. at the poor farm, 1 Dec. 1833, dau. of Nathaniel and Rebecca (Barrett) Boynton. Rebecca m. (1) at Westford, Benjamin Fletcher, and (2) in 1783, **Jonas Wright** who d. there in 1829. See Jonas Wright.

<sup>44</sup> **William Pool**, b. at Dedham, Mass., 31 Dec. 1812, d. at the Westford poor farm, 22 Dec. 1833, son of Rufus and Martha "Patty" (Raymond) Pool. Rufus died in 1825 and is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>45</sup> **Charles Reed**, b. at Westford, 11 Dec. 1785, died at the town farm, 2 Feb. 1835, son of Thomas and Phebe (Green) Reed. Charles m. at Westford, 25 Jan. 1810, Beulah Gilson (1789-1871).



June the 20, 1835 Abel Brown<sup>46</sup> Died  
 Sep 1835 Rebeckah Chandler<sup>47</sup> Died  
 Feb 15?, 1836 Alzina Read<sup>48</sup> Died  
 Feb 21, 1836 Hannah Richardson<sup>49</sup> Died  
 May 13, 1836 Nancy E. Read<sup>50</sup> Died  
 September 6, 1836 Mary Jane Read<sup>51</sup> Died  
 Sept 11, 1837 Edward Jenkins Read<sup>52</sup> Died  
 Sept 15, 1837 Betsey Parker Read<sup>53</sup> Died  
 Jan 9, 1838 Lydia Chandler<sup>54</sup> died  
 March 6, 1838 Widow P. Hildreth<sup>55</sup> [Polly] died

Names of persons belonging to the poor house Jan 1, 1838

Amos Hadley	Betsey Wright
Elihu Reed	Polly Hildreth
Thomas Richardson	Rebecca Patch
John Robertson	Abigail Richardson
William Richardson	Lydia Chandler
John Dudley	Nancy Henderson
David Dutton	Betsey Hildreth <sup>5</sup>
John P. Hildreth	Olive Reed
John Keys	William Reed
Ephraim Reed	Levi Reed
Joanne Clater	Sarah E. Henderson

July 22, 1838 Abigal Richardson<sup>56</sup> died  
 Nov 18, 1838 Mrs. Aseneth Goodhue<sup>6</sup> died

Names of persons belonging to the work house Jan. 1, 1839

<sup>46</sup> **Abel Brown** who was first listed in the poor farm in 1832, d. there 20 June 1835. An Abel Brown m. at Westford, 24 Dec. 1794, Polly Hildreth. In 1810 and 1820, there was an Abel Brown listed in census data in Westford. There is no death record in Westford VRs for him.

<sup>47</sup> **Rebecca ( ) Chandler**. Westford VRs only identify her as Chandler, “\_\_\_\_, Mrs., pauper, Sept. \_\_\_\_,” 1835.”

<sup>48</sup> **Alzina Read**, b. at Westford, aft. 1825, dau. of Charles and Beulah (Gilson) Read.

<sup>49</sup> **Hannah Richardson**, b. at Westford, 23 Jan. 1776, who died at the town farm, 21 Feb. 1836, dau. of Thomas and Abigail (Read) Richardson. Snow’s Register states, “Feb. 23, 1836. Hannah Richardson Daughter of Thomas Richardson was buried four rods south of Jacob Osgood<sup>2d</sup>.”

<sup>50</sup> Westford VRs state: “\_\_\_\_, [pauper. P.R. 2.] ch. Peter, bur. May 14, 1836”]

<sup>51</sup> Westford VRs state; “\_\_\_\_, [pauper, P.R. 2.] ch. Peter, bur. Sept. 3, 1836”]

<sup>52</sup> Probably the 10 month old child of Peter Reed who was buried 17 Sept. 1837.

<sup>53</sup> Westford VRs state “\_\_\_\_, [pauper. P.R.2.] 3d ch. Peter, bur. Sept. 17, 1837 [a. 10m.]

<sup>54</sup> **Lydia Chandler**, b. at Westford, 20 July 1765, died at the Westford poor farm, 8 Jan. 1838, dau. of Isaac and Betty (Proctor) Chandler. Westford VRs gave her age when she died as 70.

<sup>55</sup> **Polly (Kemp) Hildreth**, b. at Westford, 1 Sept. 1771, d. at the poor farm, 6 March 1838, dau. of Jonas and Joanna (Corey) Kemp. Polly m. at Westford, in 1790, Benjamin Hildreth. [Westford VRs state “\_\_\_\_, wid. Benj[ami]n, pauper, \_\_\_\_,” 1838 [bur. Mar 8]

<sup>56</sup> **Abigail Richardson**, b. at Westford, 13 June 1772, d. at the Westford poor farm, 22 July 1838, dau. of Thomas and Abigail (Read) Richardson. Snow’s Register says she was, “buried south of Jacob Osgood.”

Amos Hadley	Rebecca Patch
Elihu Reed	Nancy Henderson
Thomas Richardson	Harriet Reed
John Dudley	Silvia A. Reed
John Robertson	Nancy Reed
John Keys	Sarah E. Henderson
Peter Reed	Margaret Prescott
John P. Hildreth	Gilman Pushee
Samuel Dexter	William Reed
William Richardson	Levi Reed
Joanna Clater	Franklin Prescott
Betsey Wright	

Names of persons belonging to the poor house Jan 1st 1840

Amos Hadley	Mary Perry
Elihue Read	Rebeckah Patch
John Dudley	Betsy Wright
Thomas Richardson	Nancy Henderson
John Keyes	Nancy Pierce
William Richardson	Harriet Read
John P. Hildreth	Hannah Dutton
John Robinson	Martha Green
Samuel Dexter	Olive Read
Joseph E. Banister	Silvia Read
John Green	Martha J. Read
Peter Read	Sarah E. Henderson
John Green Jnr	Sarah E. Green
Asa Green	Margaret Prescott
Levi Reed	Betsy Hildreth
Joanna Clater	Lydia Read

Jan 1840	Joseph E. Banister <sup>57</sup> died Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>
1840	John Green <sup>58</sup> died January 30 <sup>th</sup>
1840	Peter Reed's child born Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>
1840 Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	Elihu Reed <sup>59</sup> died Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>
1840	Peter Reed's child died Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>

<sup>57</sup> **Joseph E. Banister.** Unidentified.

<sup>58</sup> **John R. Green** d. as a pauper at the poor farm, 30 Jan. 1840. John m. at Westford, 5 March 1827, Martha Parker, b. at Westford, who d. at Medway, Mass., 20 May 1878, dau. of Benjamin and Betsy (Read) Parker. In 1840, John, Martha and their three children were living at the poor farm. Martha m. (2) at Providence, R.I., in 1849, Ezekiel Proctor, b. at Carlisle, 5 Oct. 1805, who d. at Medway in 1864, son of Ezekiel and Sarah (Blood) Proctor. In 1850, Martha and Ezekiel Proctor were living in Medway. In the household was a son named Franklin Proctor, b. abt. 1846 and Martha's children, Asa, Mary and Sarah Green. Her son John Parker Green remained in the Westford poor farm.

<sup>59</sup> **Elihu Read,** b. at Westford, 2 April 1766, d. at the Westford poor farm, 29 Aug. 1840, son of Eleazer and Joanna (Fitch) Read. The *History of Westford* says he served in the Revolution. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

1840	Nancy Pierce <sup>60</sup> died Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>
March 20th 1841	Lydia Reed <sup>61</sup> Died
1841	John Robinson <sup>62</sup> died Sept the 25 <sup>th</sup>
1842	Thomas Reed <sup>63</sup> died Dec 17th 1841
May 24th 1842	John P. Hildreth <sup>64</sup> died May 24 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 13th 1842	Betsy Boynton <sup>65</sup> died
Nov 1st 1842	Sarah Charles <sup>66</sup> died
Dec 5th, 1842	Amos Hadley <sup>67</sup> died
June 28th 1843	John Dudley <sup>68</sup> died

In the 1843 timeframe, Dorothea Dix<sup>7</sup> was making her appeal to reform the almshouses. At the same time she was in Westford, there are records of Hervey Backus Wilbur, another reformist, also in town. Wilbur went on to found an Institution for Idiots in Barre, Mass. and also the “New York Asylum for Idiots” at Geddes, NY, as they were so inelegantly called. According to Heli Meltsner, Dix’s description of the Westford poor farm at that time was not very complimentary.

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<sup>60</sup> **Nancy Pierce.** Records show she was received into the poor house by orders of the overseers on 1 May 1838. On 4 Dec. 1838 Nancy Pierce ran away from the poor house. Again, on 6 June 1839, she was received into the poor house.

<sup>61</sup> **Lydia Reed,** b. abt. 1749, d. at the Westford poor farm, 20 March 1841. Westford VRs say she died at age 92y. Was she the widow of William Read whom she married at Westford in 1785 as Lydia Straton?

<sup>62</sup> **John Robinson,** b. at Westford, abt. 1781, died at the Westford Poor Farm, 25 Sept. 1841, son of Col. John and Huldah (Perley) Robinson. Records show on 12 June 1840, John Robinson left the poor house by running away. On 22 Dec. 1840 John Robinson was received into the poor house by overseers. And on 6 July 1841, John Robinson was discharged by the overseers. Again, on 19 Dec. 1841 John Robinson was this day rec’d into the poor house. Lastly, Westford VRs say died, “Robinson, John, \_\_\_\_\_, 1841, a. 72y. He is interred in the Ancient Burial Ground, Bradford, Mass.

<sup>63</sup> **Thomas Read,** b. at Westford, 11 Oct. 1778, died at the poor farm 17 Dec. 1841, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Raymond) Read Westford VRs say Thomas died at age 63y. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>64</sup> **John Parker Hildreth,** b. at Westford, 21 Aug. 1805, died of consumption at the poor farm, 24 May 1842, son of Amaziah and Margaret (Marstins) Hildreth. Westford VRs tell us John was unmarried and a laborer. He was interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>65</sup> **Betsey Boynton,** b. abt. 1782, d. of consumption at the poor farm, 13 Oct. 1842. She is probably the Betsey Boynton, b. at Westford, 1 Oct. 1787, dau. of Col. Abel and Polly (Abbot) Boynton. Westford VRs list her age as 60y. She is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>66</sup> **Sarah Charles,** b. abt. 1787, d. at the Westford poor farm, 1 Nov. 1842. [Westford VRs has two entries “Sarah, palsy, Nov. 1, 1842, a. 55y.” Also, “\_\_\_\_\_, Mrs., pauper, \_\_\_\_\_, 1842.”]

<sup>67</sup> **Amos Hadley,** b. at Westford, 2 Oct. 1768, d. at the poor farm 5 Dec. 1842, son of John and Eunice (Underwood) Hadley. Westford VRs say “Amos, Dec. 6, 1842, a. 72y”. “Amos Hadley, brother of Jonas, was sent back to Westford [from Mount Holly, VT] in 1804 to be supported by the town. He was in some way disabled, perhaps by lameness, and unable to work” (Hodgman, p. 168).

Who was “Peter Hadley who d. at Westford in 1842, listed as a pauper?

<sup>68</sup> **John Dudley,** b. at Westford, 3 Oct. 1765, who d. at the Westford poor farm, 28 June 1843, son of Daniel and Hannah (Farrar) Dudley. John m. 11 Nov. 1787, Sarah/Sally Dutton, who d. at the poor farm 3 Dec. 1828.

**Mr. Charles Sumner says (in the Boston Courier) that 'from the correctness with which Miss Dix has described these four (Sudbury, Wayland, Westford and Groton) almshouses, which I have seen, leads me to place entire confidence in her description of the other eight.'**

From the *Berkshire County Whig*, 1843-03-02, Vol. 2, Iss: 52, p. 2.

Names of persons supported in the Poor House in the years 1843-4

John Dudley	Mrs. Mary Perry
Thomas Richardson	Mrs. Joanna Clater
William Richardson	Miss Debora Wright
Calvin Green	Mrs. Betsey Wright
Peter Read	Miss Hannah Dutton
John Douty	Mrs. Nancy Henderson
Samuel Dexter	Miss Martha Cummings
John Green	Miss Betsey Hildreth
Levi Read	Miss Olive Read
Franklin Prescott	Olivia A. Read
Jonathan Buffam	Nancy Read
Robbert Wilkerson	Sarah E. Henderson
Sylvester Patch	Martha J. Read
Albert Green	Mary A. Kidder
Warren Green	Margaret Prescott

Names of persons who have received aid out of the Poor house during the year 1843-4

\*Sylvester Patch  
 Mary Patch                      in Groton  
 Children of { Patch  
 Sylvester { Patch  
 Betsey Kemp of Littleton  
 Ebenezer Wright              }  
 Betsey Wright                } in Lowell  
 Jane Wright                   }  
 Martha Wright                }  
 Jacob Read                    }  
 Rachel Read                   }  
 Samuel Read                  } of Tyngsboro  
 George Read                   }  
 Merrick Read                  }  
 Mary Read                     }  
 Nancy Read                    }  
 Eliza Read                     }  
 One infant child              }

Micah P. Newton of Marlborough  
Mary Green In Dracut & in Lowell & in  
house of correction

\*Albert Green } in Dracut and  
\* Warren Green } in Lowell

Almira Kemp in House of correction in Boston

Sally Green of Carlisle

--- Kemp in Townsend

Jonas Kemp's wife<sup>69</sup>

Patty Dutton in Westford

Adam H. Cogswell<sup>70</sup> funeral expence  
in Concord

Aaronett Read in Wilton, N.H.

\* Sylvester Patch, Albert Green, Warren Green and Mary Green have been helped  
both in and out of the Poor-house.

Sept 7, 1844 Mary Perry<sup>8</sup> died Sept 7, 1844

Feb 11, 1845 Thomas Richerdson<sup>71</sup> Died Feb 11th 1845

May 3, 1845 Arronett Read<sup>72</sup> died

Names of persons supported in the Poor House in 1844-5

Thomas Richardson

William Richardson

Calvin Green

Peter Read

Samuel Dexter

John Green

Levi Read

Sylvester Patch

Mrs. Joanna Clater

Mrs. Deborah Wright

Mrs. Betsy Wright

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<sup>69</sup> Jonas Kemp's wife was **Mary/Molly (Nutting) Kemp**. See the footnote for Jonas Kemp.

<sup>70</sup> **Adam Holden Cogswell**, b. at Westford, 29 July 1801, d. at Concord, Mass., 21 June 1843, son of Jonathan and Sally (Tuttle) Cogswell. In 1820, Adam H. Cogswell, a minor above the age of 14, in probate court held in Chelmsford chose Thomas Coburn to be his legal guardian (Middlesex Probate court, #4765). Adam m. at Chelmsford in 1823, Mary White. Here is a good example of Westford paying for the expense of one of its residents located in another town.

<sup>71</sup> **Thomas Richardson**, b. at Westford, 9 March 1770, d. at the poor farm, 11 Feb. 1845 son of Thomas and Abigail (Read) Richardson. Thomas became a resident at the town farm in 1827 and continued there until his death. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford. Snow's Register states, "Feb. 13, 1845. Mr. Thomas Richardson was buried sixteen paces south of Jacob Osgood. Died 11<sup>th</sup> Aged 72. The Town of Westford for digging grave and breaking paths. \$2.50." This area is very likely in Range 10 between lots 34 and 35.

<sup>72</sup> **Aronet Reed**, b. abt. 1816, was the son of Charles and Beulah (Gilson) Reed. Westford VRs calls him Erenet; Luce records gives his age as 29.



Miss Hannah Dutton  
Mrs. Nancy Henderson  
Miss Martha Cummings  
Miss Betsy Hildreth  
Nancy E. Henderson  
Merritt Read [sic Merrick]  
Nancy Read  
Martha J. Read

1845, Paid Town of Wilmington, for supplies furnished Samuel Hildreth, while sick with small pox.

Feb 25, 1846            Roscoe Vernon Kidder<sup>73</sup> born

Names of persons in the Poor House Nov 1st 1845

William Richardson  
Calvin Green  
Peter Read  
Joanna Clatter  
Deborah Wright  
Betsy Wright  
Hannah Dutton  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsy Hildreth  
Matilda Prescott  
Josa Munway

March 15, 1846        Betsey Wright<sup>74</sup> Died  
Feb 6, 1847           Matilda Prescott<sup>75</sup> died

Names of persons at the Poor house Nov 1st 1846

William Richardson  
Calvin Green  
Peter Read  
Joanna Clatter  
Deborah Wright

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<sup>73</sup> **Roscoe Vernon Kidder**, born at the Westford town farm 25 Feb. 1846, d. at Kansas in 1929, son of Clarissa Crosby. This birth was never recorded by the town and therefore never entered in Massachusetts vital records. In 1860 Roscoe was living with a Smith family in Hollis, N.H. He enlisted in the Civil War from Milford, N.H., and was discharged at Alexandria, Vir., in June 1865. Evidently his middle name was Bernum. He is interred in Topeka, Kansas.

In 1848 Clarissa Crosby of Billerica was declared an insane person. She died at the state hospital in Concord, N.H. in 1849.

<sup>74</sup> **Betsey Patch**, b. abt. 1763, who d. at the poor farm 15 March 1846. Betsey m. 5 Oct. 1786, Asa Wright. Westford VRs say "Betsy [w. Asa, pauper. P.R.2.], old age, Mar. 24, 1846, a. 83y. [a. 84y. P.R.2]"

<sup>75</sup> **Matilda (Tuttle) Prescott**, b. at Littleton, Mass., 24 May 1766, d. at the poor farm 6 Feb. 1847, dau. of Samuel and Mary (Russell) Tuttle. Matilda married (1) in 1786, Peter Reed, (2) in 1827, Joseph Farwell, (3) in 1829 Nathaniel French, and her fourth and final marriage was in 1835 to Isaiah Prescott.

Hannah Dutton  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsy Hildreth  
Matilda Prescott  
Clarisa Kidder  
Samuel Dexter  
Rebecca Patch  
Roscoe Vernon Kidder

March 31, 1847	Joanna Clater <sup>76</sup> died
Oct 9, 1847	William Richardson <sup>77</sup> died
Oct 26, 1847	Patrick Clary died *
Nov 26, 1847	Deborah Wright <sup>78</sup> died
Mar 11, 1848	Partrick Oharrar died at the poor house *
Nov 27, 1848	Patty Dutton <sup>79</sup> died

Names of persons at the Poor House Nov 1st 1848

Calvin Green  
Peter Reed  
Samuel Dexter  
Hannah Dutton  
Betsy Hildreth  
George W. Sears  
James A. Lane<sup>80</sup>  
Lucy M. Lane

Names of Persons at the Alms House Nov 1st 1849

Calvin Green  
Samuel Dexter  
Peter Reed  
Hannah Dutton  
Betsy Hildreth  
George W. Sears  
James A. Lane  
Lucy M. Lane

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<sup>76</sup> **Joanna (Fletcher) Klatter**, b. at Westford, 18 June 1755, d. at the poor farm, 31 March 1847, dau. of Ebenezer and Joanna (Stearns) Fletcher. Joanna m. at Westford, 4 Oct. 1784, Jacob Klatter, who d. in 1801. Her name is spelled Clator on her gravestone in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>77</sup> **William Richardson**, bpt. at Westford in 1783, d. at the poor farm, 9 Oct. 1847, son of Abijah and Elizabeth (Livingston) Richardson. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>78</sup> **Deborah Wright**, , b. at Westford, 30 July 1762, d. at the poor farm, 26 Nov. 1847, dau. of John and Sarah (Lawrence) Wright. Westford VRs say "Deborah, pauper, \_\_\_\_\_, 1847."

<sup>79</sup> **Patty Dutton**. Westford VRs say "Patty, unm. [pauper. P.R.2.], old age, Nov. 27, 1848, a. 96y. This is "Martha," b. 1761, d/o Benjamin and Mary (Rumrill) Dutton. See Hodgman p. 445)

<sup>80</sup> By 1855, twins **James A.** and **Lucy Melissa Lane** were living with Solomon and Roxy Nutting in Groton. They were b. at Lowell, abt. 1846, children of James M. and Lucy A. (Campbell) Lane who m. at Littleton, 31 Dec. 1840. Lucy Melissa Lane d. of typhoid at Groton, 10 Dec. 1864.

June 28, 1850

Hannah Dutton<sup>81</sup> Died

Names from 1850 census taken 18 Sept. 1850

Name	Comment	Age
Solomon Nutting	Master Almshouse	49
Roxy Nutting		47
Peter Reed		59
Calvin Green		74
Samuel Dexter		53
George W. Sears	Listed as idiotic pauper	11
Nancy Henderson		46
Betsey Hildreth	Listed as insane pauper	40
James A. Lane		4
Lucy M. Lane		4
John B. Green (sic John P.)	Idiotic pauper	22

Number of persons at the Poor House Nov 1, 1850 included the addition of Rachel Stevens.

Rachael Stevens (Listed in the November census, but not in census taken 18 Sept. 1850)	
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Nov 25, 1850

Samuel Dexter<sup>82</sup> died

Names of persons at the Alms House Nov 1851

Calvin Green  
Peter Reed  
Jonas Kemp  
Rachel Stevens  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsey Hildreth  
George W. Sears  
James A. Lane  
Lucy M. Lane

On Jan 22, 1852, Mary Hallgate<sup>83</sup> came to the poor House

Jan 23, 1852 Eliza Hallgate born

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<sup>81</sup> **Hannah Dutton**, b. abt. 1803, d. at the poor farm, 27 June 1850, age 47y. Her death record indicates she was born at Westford.

<sup>82</sup> **Samuel Dexter**, b. at Charlestown, Mass., abt. 1797, d. of typhus fever at the poor farm, 25 Nov. 1850, son of Nathan and Phebe (Glover) Dexter. Samuel, his parents, and several siblings are interred in Fairview Cemetery.

<sup>83</sup> **Mary Hollgate** came to the poor farm where she gave birth to Elizabeth in 1852. In the Westford birth record, the father was listed as William Hollgate. In 1850, spelled Holygate, Wm., age 36, Mary, age 21, and Ellen, 1 month, were living in Chelmsford, Mass. Ellen's birth at Lowell was recorded as dau. of William Hologate and Mary Barrel/Barret (?).

Mar 5, 1852            Mary Hallgate & her two children Ellen and Eliza Hallgate left the poor House

Names of persons at the Poor house Nov 1, 1852

Calvin Green  
Peter Reed  
Rebecca Patch  
Rachel Stevens  
Betsy Hunstable  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsy Hildreth  
James A. Lane  
Lucy M. Lane

April 2nd 1853            Peter Reed<sup>84</sup> died [sic Read]

Names of persons at the Poor house Nov 1, 1853

Calvin Green  
Amaziah Kemp  
Phineas Nichols  
Abel Cory  
Thomas Kemp<sup>85</sup>  
Samuel Richardson  
Rebecca Patch  
Rachel Stevens  
Betsy Hustable  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsy Hildreth

Names of persons at the poor House Nov 1, 1854

Calvin Green  
Amaziah Kemp  
Abel Cory  
Samuel Richardson  
Rebeccka Patch  
Rachael Stevens  
Betsey Hunstable  
Nancy Henderson  
Betsey Hildreth

June 3, 1855            Nancy Henderson<sup>86</sup> died

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<sup>84</sup> **Peter Read**, b. at Westford, 15 Oct. 1788, d. of consumption, at the poor farm, 4 April 1853, son of Abel and Rebecca (Farrar) Read. Peter is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>85</sup> **Thomas Kemp**, b., probably at Westford in 1789, d. there at the town farm 19 Feb. 1857, son of Simeon and Susan (Hildreth) Kemp. Amaziah Kemp was his brother.

<sup>86</sup> **Nancy (Adams) Henderson**, age 50, d. at the poor farm, 3 June 1855, dau. of Thomas Adams. Her cause of death was listed as brain disease. Snow's Register states, "Mrs. Nancy Henderson was buried beside

Names of persons at the poor house Nov 1, 1855

Calvin Green  
Amaziah Kemp  
Abel Corey  
Samuel Richardson  
Rebecca Patch  
Rachael Stevens  
Betsey Hunstable  
Betsey Hildreth  
Jeptha R. Reed

Nov 29, 1855          Jephthah Reed<sup>87</sup> died  
May 4, 1856          Mrs. Rachel Stevens<sup>88</sup> died

Names of persons at the Alms House Nov 1st 1856

Calvin Green  
Amaziah Kemp  
Abel Corey  
Silvester Patch  
[Charles] Proctor Kider  
Rebecca Patch  
Betsey Hunstable  
Betsey Hildreth

Names of persons at the Alms house Nov 1, 1857

Rebecca Patch  
Betsy Hildreth  
Betsy Hildreth  
Samuel Richardson  
Calvin Green

Deaths of the year 1857

Aug 4 Betsy Hunstable<sup>89</sup> Dide to day Aged 84 yrs  
Oct 4 Amaziah Kemp<sup>90</sup> Died Age 70

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her grandmother. Her grandmother was old Mrs. Thomas Adams. The town of Westford to digging her grave \$1.50.”

<sup>87</sup> **Jeptha Read**, b. 1790, d. at the poor farm, 29 Nov. 1855, son of Eleazer and Elizabeth (Fletcher) Read, Jr. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>88</sup> **Rachel Woods**, b. at Groton, Mass., 9 April 1771, died of old age at the Westford poor farm, 4 May 1856, dau. of James and Abigail (Howard) Woods. Rachel m. at Westford, int. 15 July 1816, Bill Wright Stevens. They are interred in Wright Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>89</sup> **Betsy Hunstable**, born at Boston abt. 1773, died of old age at the poor farm, 4 Aug. 1857, dau. of Thomas and Sarah (Whitman/Wittman) Hunstable. In 1852 Betsy was listed as a pauper at the town farm. She previously shows up in 1850 in Carlisle living at the residence of Lewis [sic Lois] Green. Betsy’s death record indicated she was single with burial in Westlawn cemetery, Westford. Her father, Thomas Hunstable, had participated in the Boston Tea Party in 1773. How and why did Betsy end up in Westford?



Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1858

William Mears  
Sylvester Patch  
Samuel Richardson  
Betsy Hildreth

Deaths at the Poorhouse in 1858

Feb 12           Rebecka Patch<sup>91</sup> Died Aged 90  
Aug 18           Betsy Hildreth<sup>9</sup> died Aged 62 yrs  
Sept. 4           Calvin Green<sup>92</sup> died Aged 83 yrs

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1859

Wm. Mears  
Betsy Hildreth  
Timothy Smith  
Walter Scott

Deaths at the Poorhouse in 1859

July 1st           Sylvester Patch<sup>93</sup> Died Aged 51 yrs  
Nov 1st           Timothy Smith<sup>94</sup> Died Aged 70 yrs

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1860

William Mears  
Samuel Richardson  
Betsy Hildreth  
Walter Scott

Deaths at the Poorhouse in 1860

April 8           Joseph Hildreth<sup>95</sup> Died Aged 50 yrs

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<sup>90</sup> **Amaziah Kemp**, b., probably at Westford, abt. 1787, d. at the poor farm, 4 Oct. 1857, son of Simeon and Susanna (Hildreth) Kemp. He was a laborer and single. His death record indicates burial in Fairview.

<sup>91</sup> **Rebecca (Nutting) Patch**, b. at Pepperell, 9 Jan. 1768, d. at the poor farm either 5 or 12 Feb. 1858, dau. of Simeon and Dorothy (Kemp) Nutting. Rebecca m. at Pepperell, 18 Nov. 1788, Abel Patch. She is interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>92</sup> **Calvin Green**, b. at Carlisle, 3 June 1775, d. at the poor farm, 4 Sept. 1858, son of John and Elizabeth (Spaulding) Green. Calvin m. at Westford, 3 Sept. 1798, Rebecca Richardson. She m. (2) in 1799, William Cummings. Calvin m. (2) at Westford, 7 Feb. 1839, Susan Dadmum. When Calvin died he was listed as a widower. His death record indicated burial in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>93</sup> **Sylvester Patch**, twin of Silva (Silvia?), b. at Westford, 3 April 1808, d. at the poor farm, 1 July 1859, son of Daniel and Betsey (Wright) Patch. Sylvester m. at Groton, 14 July 1833, Loucy Maria Wright, b. at Pepperell in 1814, dau. of Benjamin Nutting and Loucy/Lucy (Gilson) Wright. Sylvester's wife's name also shows up as Lovey Maria Wright. There were two children b. at Groton, Nathan Harrison, b. in 1834 and Martha Ann in 1838. By 1843 Westford was providing support to Sylvester, Mary and their children at Groton. He is interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford, and Lovey Maria is interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, Keene, N.H.

<sup>94</sup> **Timothy Smith**, b. at Westford, 25 June 1789, d. of syphilis at the poor farm, 1 Nov. 1859, son of Thomas and Molly (Herrick) Smith. Timothy and his wife, Betsey (Abbot) Smith are interred in Hillside Cemetery, Westford.

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1861

William Mears  
Abijah Reed  
Samuel Richardson  
Susan Pike  
Betsy Hildreth

Deaths at the Poorhouse in 1861

July 2 Edward Richardson<sup>96</sup> Died Aged 47 yrs

July 3 Sarah Prescott<sup>97</sup> Died Aged 64 yrs

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1862

William Mears  
Abijah Reed  
Sam'l Richardson  
Susan Pike  
Betsey Hildreth

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1863

William Mears  
Abijah Reed  
Ebenezer Tidd  
Betsey Hildreth

Deaths at the Poorhouse in 1863

March 31st Susan Pike<sup>98</sup> Died

Names of Persons at the Almshouse Oct 1st 1864

William Mears  
James Kemp<sup>99</sup>  
Betsey Hildreth

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<sup>95</sup> **Joseph Hildreth**, b. abt. 1808, who died of dropsy at the poor farm, 8 April 1860, son of Benjamin and Polly (Kemp) Hildreth. His death record indicates he was interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>96</sup> **Edward Richardson**, b. abt. 1814, d. at the town farm, 2 July 1861, son of "unknown" and Sarah Parker. Edward m. at Westford, int. dated 1837, Louisa Dyer Hildreth. His death record indicated he was married, died of consumption, and buried in Westlawn Cemetery. He was probably from Carlisle as in 1861 the town report showed Eli Tower was paid \$1.50 for expense and time in going to Carlisle to see about Edw. Richardson.

<sup>97</sup> **Sarah/Sally Prescott**, b. at Westford, 20 Sept. 1797, d. at the poor farm 3 July 1861, daughter of Amos and Polly (Emerson) Prescott. She was unmarried; interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>98</sup> **Susan Pike**. Susanna Estabrooks, b. at Westford, 9 Nov. 1784, d. at the poor farm, 31 March 1861, dau. of Joel and Abigail (Underwood) Estabrooks. Susanna m. at Dunstable, int. dated 12 Jan. 1822, as his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Daniel Pike (1765-1842) of Hebron, N.H. She died as a widow. There is no burial information for her. Daniel Pike is interred in Hebron Village Cemetery.

<sup>99</sup> Although listed as a resident in 1874, **James Kemp** died 24 April 1873 at the poor farm. A receipt dated 25 Aug. 1873 showed "paid \$3.00 to Amos Day for digging one grave for Mr. Kemp from the poor farm."

## Mary Elizabeth Cowdry

From inside the back cover of town farm book  
Names and Ages of persons in the workhouse  
Westford, December 20, 1828

Widow Elizabeth Adams	Born March 2	1736	age 92
Widow Ruth Hildreth	Born January 15	1740	88
Eleazer Blood <sup>100</sup>	Born July 16	1744	84
Widow Mary Farewell	Born November 12	1744	84
John Pushee <sup>101</sup>	Born August 15	1748	80
Hannah Spoilding	Born July 25	1754	74
Lydia Blood	Born June 8	1757	71
Jonas Wright	Born February 6	1759	69
John Dudley	Born October 3	1764	64
Ephraim Spoilding	Born February 28	1767	61
Hannah Richardson	Born nobody knows when		
Abigail Pushee	Born May 19	1786	42
George Reed	Born August 19	1795	33
Abel H. Kemp	Born February 7	1808	20
Luther Wright	Born July 2	1810	18
Martha Commings	Born January 10	1810	18
Henry C. Pushee	Born June 15	1815	13
Calvin Commings	Born January 4	1816	12
Betsy Pushee	Born July 17	1820	8
Lucy Campnell <sup>102</sup>	Born May 18	1816	12
Almira Pushee	Born November 13	1822	6
Gilman Pushee	Born February 17	1826	2
William Richardson	Born		
Martha Jane Read	Daughter of Peter Read		
Born August <sup>the</sup> 10 1839			

<sup>100</sup> **Eleazer Blood**, b. at Groton, 16 July 1744, son of Ebenezer and Abigail.

<sup>101</sup> **John Pushee** was a Revolutionary War pensioner. The *History of Westford*, p. 470, indicates he was of Acton. John, b. at Lunenburg, Mass., 16 Aug. 1749, d. at Littleton, 13 June 1834, age 86. (His pension application provided his birth date and place). He m. in 1770, Lucy Blodgett of Concord. In 1784, John Pushee and family from Westford, Mass. were "warned out" of Jaffrey, N.H.

<sup>102</sup> Is this Lucy Campnell actually Lucy Campbell married to James M. Lane whose children James A. and Melissa Lane were in the town farm starting in 1848?

### 1855 Westford Census Town Farm

Name	Code	Age	Occupation	Born
Willis Wilder		52	Keeper	Vt.
Laura Wilder		53		Vt.
Charles W. Wilder		18	Farming	Vt.
Harriet J. Wilder		16		Vt.
Rebecca Patch	Pauper	87		MA
Betsey Hunstable	Pauper	83		MA
Rachel Stevens	Pauper	88		MA
Calvin Green	Pauper	80		MA
Abel Corey	Pauper	73		MA
Amaziah Kemp	Pauper	63		MA
Nancy Henderson	Pauper	50		MA
Betsey Hildreth	Pauper	40		MA
Samuel Richardson	Pauper	50		MA

### 1865 Westford Census Town Farm

Name	Code	Age	Marital Status	Born
Ward Coburn		52	Keeper	Tyngsboro, Mass.
Sybil E. Coburn		49	Matron	Hollis, N.H.
Ebenezer Tidd	Pauper	78	W	Westford
William Mears <sup>103</sup>	Pauper, \$	73	W	Westford
Abijah Reed	Pauper	58	S	Westford
Samuel Richardson	Pauper insane	58	S	Westford
Samuel Hoyt	Pauper	44	M	England
Betsey Hildreth	Pauper	73	S	Westford
Elizabeth Cowdrey <sup>104</sup>	Pauper	33	W	Scotland
Mary E. Cowdrey <sup>105</sup>	Pauper	4		Nashua, NH
Anna R. Cowdrey <sup>106</sup>	Pauper	3		Nashua, NH

\$ Can read, not write.

Names and ages of the paupers in the Alms-House, February 6th, 1869

<sup>103</sup> **William Mears**, b. abt. 1791, d. at the Westford Poor Farm, 28 Jan. 1870, age 79. In 1850, William, listed as a wheelwright, was living with William and Rebecca Goodhue in Westford center. His death record listed him as a wheelwright, single, "a pauper, parentage not known." He was interred in Fairview Cemetery.

<sup>104</sup> **Mary Elizabeth (Stranford/Spofford/Crawford?) Cowdrey**. Elizabeth, b. in Scotland, abt. 1832, dau. of Samuel and Elizabeth Stranford, m. (1) at Clinton, Mass. in 1855, George Cowdrey, b. at Westford, abt. 1822, who d. by drowning in 1862, son of Mighill and Mary (Crosby) Cowdrey. He is interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashua, N.H. In 1860, Lizzie, George and dau. Mary, b. in 1859 were listed in Nashua. She and her two daughters came to the Westford town farm in 1864. Elizabeth m. (2) at Clinton, in 1870, as his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Robert McMaster, b. at Scotland, abt. 1836. The *Cowdrey* genealogy says she and Robert McMaster returned to Scotland.

<sup>105</sup> **Mary Elizabeth Cowdrey**, b. at Nashua, N.H., in 1858, d. at Westford, 13 Nov. 1929, dau. of George W. and Elizabeth (Crawford) Cowdrey. Hers was one of the very lengthy stays in the poor farm. In 1880 she was listed as a servant in Imri Sprague's boarding house (10 Pleasant Street). In 1880 she was also listed in a census Supplement of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes in the Idiots section where it said she was partially able to support herself. She is interred in Strangers Row, Fairview Cemetery. There was a brief obituary for her on page 3 of the *Lowell Sun* on 15 Nov. 1929.

<sup>106</sup> **Annie Rebecca Cowdrey**, b. at Nashua, N.H., 7 Dec. 1861, d. at Concord, Mass. 28 May 1953, dau. of George W. and Elizabeth (Crawford) Cowdrey. Annie m. at Boxborough in 1884, Ellis Wetherbee (1859-1932). Annie and Ellis are interred in Mt. Hope Cemetery, West Acton, Mass.

Name	Age
Betsy Hildreth	58
William Mears	78
Abijah Read	61
Ebenezer Tidd	82
Samuel Richardson	61
Frederick Bishop	13
Isaac Scott <sup>107</sup>	21
Alden H. Woodward	22
Charles F. Peckins	10
Frederick H. Peckins	8
Mary E. Cowdry	9
Anna Cowdry	7

#### 1870 Westford Census Town Farm

Name	Occupation	Age	Birthplace
Jotham/Jonathan R. Bagley	Keeper of Alms house	50	N.H.
Martha J. Bagley	Keeps house	46	N.H.
Williette Bagley		19	N.H.
Frank R. Bagley		14	N.H.
Ebenezer Tidd <sup>108</sup>	Pauper	85	N.H.
Samuel Richardson <sup>109</sup>	Pauper	64	Mass.
Abijah Reed	Pauper	64	Mass.
Amos Hildreth	No occupation	63	Mass.
Charles Peckens	Pauper	12	Mass.
Frederick J. Bishop	Pauper	13	Mass.
Betsey Hildreth	Pauper	60	Mass.

On 14 Dec. 1873, Oliver Foster Daland<sup>110</sup>, born at Billerica, about 1801, was murdered at the Westford almshouse by Samuel Webb Hildreth<sup>111</sup>.

<sup>107</sup> **Isaac N. Scott** (twin), b. at Westford, 28 Jan. 1848, d. at the Westford Town Farm, 10 May 1872, son of Frederick and Mary W. (Newton) Scott. He was interred in Fairview Cemetery.

<sup>108</sup> **Ebenezer Tidd**, b. at Westford, 23 Feb. 1788, died at the Westford Alms House, 22 Jan. 1873, son of John and Elizabeth (Wilson) Tidd. Ebenezer m. at Westford, in June 1829, as her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Permelia "Milley" (Chandler) Trowbridge (1793-1841). Ebenezer and Permelia are interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>109</sup> **Samuel Richardson**, b. at Westford, 25 Oct. 1806, who d. at Lowell 25 May 1872, son of Samuel and Ama/Amy (Fletcher) Richardson. Samuel m. at Westford in Feb. 1830, **Olive Prescott** (1802-1876). Samuel became insane and was placed in the town farm. He died in a railroad accident in Lowell and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. The *Boston Journal* of 25 May 1872 described his death and mentioned he had a surviving daughter in Boston. That daughter was Olive Amelia Richardson (1834-1907). Olive divorced Samuel and married, second, in 1851, as his third wife, Calvin Howard.

<sup>110</sup> From page 2 of the *Boston Daily Globe*, 18 Dec. 1873. "The Coroner's jury in the case of **Oliver F. Doland**, murdered by Samuel Hildreth at the poor-house in Westford on Saturday night, December 14, met Tuesday afternoon, and examined several witnesses but elicited few additional facts. Their verdict was 'that Oliver F. Donald came to his death at the town farm at Westford, between the hours of 8 o'clock P.M. on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 8 o'clock A.M. on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, by wounds inflicted by a razor in the hands of Samuel W. Hildreth.' Hildreth is trying to introduce the plea of insanity, and pretends that he did not know what he was doing when he used the razor." [Doland and Donald are newspaper typos]

<sup>111</sup> **Samuel Webb Hildreth**, b. at Westford, 16 Jan. 1811, d. at Boston, 20 July 1887, son of Amaziah and Margaret (Marstins) Hildreth. Samuel was found guilty of killing Oliver Daland and was sent to the state prison for life. He is interred in the Concord Reformatory Cemetery, Concord, Mass.

### 1880 Westford Census

Name	Marital Status	Age	Birth-place	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Henry D. Pierce	M	41		Superintendent	N.H.	N.H.
Mary Pierce	M	39		Keeping House	N.H.	N.H.
M. Jennie Pierce	S	14			N.H.	N.H.
Nellie M. Pierce	S	5			N.H.	N.H.
Arni Sargent	S	23	Can	Farm Laborer	Can	Can
Henry Riuter	S	22	Can	Farm Laborer	Can	NY
Betsey Hildreth	S	73	MA		MA	MA
Amos Hildreth	S	72	MA		MA	MA
Pamelia Kendall <sup>112</sup>	W	96	MA		---	---
Eunice Fletcher	W	78	MA		MA	MA
John P. Green	S	54	MA		MA	MA

In 1883, there was an expense of \$2.50 for bed bug poison.

In 1892, Edward Prescott was paid for expenses incurred in burying Esther Robbins<sup>113</sup> who died at the town farm 6 Jan. 1892. In 1893, S. M. Hutchins was paid \$2.50 for digging grave for Mrs. Robbins.

In 1894 the inmates were

Name	Age
John Green	75
James McManus	51
George O. Wright	
F. W. Howe	82
Abby J. Howe	67
Patrick O'Toole	87
Catherine O'Toole	93
Margaret O'Brine	60
Edward E. Holt	80
Caroline A. Perham	70

Inmates as of Feb. 1 1896

Name	Age
John Green	76
James McManus	52
George O. Wright	65
Patrick O'Toole	88
Catherine O'Toole	94
Margaret O'Brien	61
Edward E. Holt	81

<sup>112</sup> **Parmelia "Milley" Fletcher**, b. at Shirley, in 1784, d. at Westford, 23 June 1881, dau. of Oliver and Sarah (Fletcher) Fletcher. Permelia m. 12 Aug. 1827, Cyrus Kendall, who died six days later, on 18 Aug. 1827, age 32. Westford paid \$13.50 for Permelia's coffin and \$2.00 for digging her grave.

<sup>113</sup> **Esther Robbins**. Esther Blanchard, b. at Dunstable, Mass., 17 Oct. 1806, d. at the Westford poor farm, 6 Jan. 1892, dau. of Gideon and Sarah (Robbins) Blanchard. Esther m. at Dunstable, 3 Nov. 1823, Ezra Robbins, b. 1799, son of Abel and Polly (Proctor) Robbins. In 1860, three of Esther's children, Esther A., age 34, Mary P., 22, and Sarah J., 16, were living in the poor farm in Nashua, N.H. Esther is interred in Fairview Cemetery, location not known.

Caroline A. Perham	71
Thomas Carney	84
C. E. Richards	28
Annie M. Richards	28
V. A. Richards	1 ½

#### Inmates in 1897

Name	Age
John Green	78
George O. Wright	67
Catherine O'Toole	96
Margaret O'Brine	61
Edward E. Holt	81
Caroline A. Perham	71
Thomas Carney	84

#### Inmates in 1898

Name	Age
John P. Green	79
Catherine O'Toole	97
Margaret O'Brine	64
Edward E. Holt	84
Caroline A. Perham	74
Thomas Carney	87

On 3 Sept. 1898 at a special town meeting: Item 5, Voted, that the town appropriate two thousand dollars (\$2000) to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor, for building an addition to the house and a lock-up at the Town Farm.” (Annual town report, yr end. 1899, p. 17) Pages 50 and 51 list expenses involved. Page 62 lists expense for cement and stone for cistern.

#### Inmates in 1899

Name	Age
John P. Green	80
Catherine O'Toole	Age about 100
Margaret O'Brine	Age about 65
Edward E. Holt	85
Caroline A. Perham	75
Thomas Carney	Age about 88

1900 town report, p. 42, General Expenses: H. M. Francis<sup>114</sup> was paid for plans and specifications for the ell at alms house. \$93.75.



Henry Martyn Francis  
from <http://fitchburghistory.fsc.edu/Page5.htm>



Quincy Day photograph showing the new ell on the left added in 1900  
and the fire escapes and porches added in 1903.

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<sup>114</sup> Henry Martyn Francis was a noted architect from Fitchburg. He was the architect of the J. V. Fletcher Library, the second Westford Academy, which is now the Roudenbush Community Center, and the addition to the town farm.



<p>50</p> <p>Report of Building Committee on New Ell to House at Town Farm, with New Lock-up.</p>		<p>51</p> <p>his hands. The lowest estimate we received was \$2,100 above the cellar, without the plumbing. We have expended between \$500 and \$600 in the basement in putting in cells and trap room and brickwork, and \$375 for plumbing, which amounts to about \$900 more than the estimate. The Superintendent has done a good deal of the carpenter work himself at his leisure. We have nearly material enough on hand to finish the first floor, and it is estimated that if \$300 more was raised by the Town to buy material for the second floor, stairs and stock for painting, the Superintendent can complete the building himself without any expense for labor. It would seem that it is policy for the Town to do so, for if there should be a change in the Superintendent before the building was finished, and a new man should take charge who was not a mechanic, it would necessitate the hiring of a carpenter extra. The committee is desirous for the citizens to visit the farm and inspect the new building, believing they will endorse the course the committee has taken.</p>	
<p>PAID:</p> <p>Paid: F. D. Cook &amp; Co. for lumber..... \$394 30</p> <p>      A. Pratt &amp; Co. for lumber..... 14 25</p> <p>      Gregg &amp; Son, for lumber, finish,       doors, etc..... 169 01</p> <p>      Alana Portance, laying cellar wall.. 60 00</p> <p>      For labor..... 126 73</p> <p>      For freight and express..... 35 19</p> <p>      For carpenter work..... 188 85</p> <p>      J. A. Healy, lime, cement and team-       ing..... 51 60</p> <p>      Damon Gould Co., lime, cement and       hair..... 42 68</p> <p>      Damon Brick Co., 10,000 brick..... 96 00</p> <p>      Waldo Bros., sewer pipe..... 6 04</p> <p>      Joel Knapp &amp; Son, iron work for       cells..... 100 00</p> <p>      Wright &amp; Bemis, sheet lead..... 1 60</p> <p>      C. E. Adams, sheathing paper and       hardware..... 6 56</p> <p>      Wright &amp; Fletcher, hardware..... 54 46</p> <p>      H. V. Hildreth, stone steps and       capping..... 41 74</p> <p>      J. L. Moss, gutters..... 26 50</p> <p>      W. W. Johnson, lime and laths..... 10 05</p> <p>      W. W. Handley, mason work..... 217 29</p> <p>      W. H. Martin, plumbing..... 352 19</p> <p>Appropriation, \$2,000. \$1,995 04</p>		<p>SHERMAN H. FLETCHER, GEORGE W. HEYWOOD, WESLEY O. HAWKES. Board of Selectmen.</p> <p>LEONARD W. WHEELER, ALBERT R. CHOATE, ALVIN G. POLLEY. Board of Overseers of Poor. Committee.</p>	
<p>There is a balance due W. H. Martin, for plumbing, to the amount of \$22.21, and there is in the hands of Mr. S. H. Balch the sum of \$2 for sale of material.</p> <p>The committee decided to give the Superintendent at the farm authority to buy the materials and take charge of the work, as estimates received for the building were so much in excess of the appropriation that we found it advisable to put the matter in</p>			

Westford Town Report, year ending 1899, pgs. 50-51

Year ending March 1, 1900, p. 65: "The new ell for the Almshouse has been finished during the past year. A woodshed and ice house have been built, mainly from lumber from the old ell... We found that running water could be put in the Almshouse while this work was in progress, cheaper than later. Therefore we have expended for this purpose \$196.01." Running water was added. The town agreed to pay the superintendent quarterly instead of annually. Legal proceedings were begun against Louisa Leland.

#### Inmates in 1900

Name	Age
John P. Green	80
Catherine O'Toole	100
Margaret O'Brine	about 66
Edward E. Holt	85
Caroline A. Perham	75
Thomas Carney	about 89
Joseph D. Wilkinson	81

<u>1900 Federal Census</u> Name	Relationship	Age	Marital Status	Where Born
Balch, Samuel H.	Head	45	M	New Hampshire
Balch, Ella	Wife	41	M	New Hampshire
Balch, George M.	Son	12	S	New Hampshire
Felch, Lizzie	Servant	30	S	Massachusetts

Stiles, Fran	Servant	21	S	Canada
O'Toole, Kate	Inmate	101	Wd	Ireland
O'Brien, Maggie	Inmate	67	S	Ireland
Perham, Caroline	Inmate	74	Wd	New Hampshire
Holt, Edward H.	Inmate	86	W	England
Cowdry, Lizzie <sup>115</sup>	Inmate	40	S	New Hampshire
Green, Thomas F.	Boarder	75	S	Massachusetts
Carney, Thomas	Boarder	90	S	Ireland

Inmates as of Feb. 1, 1901

Name	Age
John P. Green	81
Catherine O'Toole	101
Margaret O'Brine	about 67
Edward E. Holt	86
Caroline A. Perham	76
Thomas Carney	about 90
Joseph D. Wilkinson	81
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	42

1901 A steam heating apparatus was added.

1902 Persons supported at Town Farm

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
John P. Green	74		
Catherine O'Toole	about 102	Dec. 14, 1893	
Margaret O'Brine	about 67	Dec. 14, 1893	
Edward E. Holt	87	Jan. 8, 1894	
Caroline A. Perham	78	Jan. 23, 1894	
Thomas Carney	about 91	Jan. 31, 1877	
Joseph D. Wilkinson	83	Feb. 20, 1899	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	43	Feb. 24, 1900	
True A. Bean	79	Apr. 26, 1901	
Varnum T. Fletcher	59	Mar. 28, 1901	
Elizabeth Lord	35	Jan. 29, 1902	
Elbridge Reed		July 21, 1901	Sept. 1, 1901

1902, the Overseers expressed their appreciation for his gift to the Town Farm from Mr. Abiel J. Abbot for a copy of Drake's *History of Middlesex County*.

1903 Expenses: Catherine O'Toole<sup>116</sup>, widow of Patrick, died on April 17, 1902, age 102. \$20 was paid for her funeral.

1903. A fire escape was added. (See the photograph dated 1901 taken by Quincy Day)

<sup>115</sup> Her name was misinterpreted as "Rowdrey" in the census

<sup>116</sup> **Catherine O'Toole.** Catherine McMahon, b. in Ireland abt. 1799, d. at the poor farm, 17 April 1902, dau. of Terrance and Bridget ( ) McMahon. Catherine m. Patrick O'Toole (1809-1895). She and Patrick lived on Texas Road. They both entered the town farm in 1893. The O'Tooles are interred in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Lowell. There was a lengthy article on p. 8 of the *Lowell Sun* dated 13 July 1902 about Patrick and Catherine. See the Westford Museum website for more articles about her.

Persons supported at the Town Farm year ending March 1, 1903

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
John P. Green	74		
Catherine O'Toole	about 102	Dec. 14, 1893	died Apr. 17, 1902
Margaret O'Brine <sup>117</sup>	about 68	Dec. 14, 1893	
Edward E. Holt <sup>118</sup>	87	Jan. 8, 1894	died Apr. 28, 1902
Caroline A. Perham	79	Jan. 23, 1894	
Thomas Carney	about 92	Jan. 31, 1877	
Joseph D. Wilkinson	84	Feb. 20, 1899	died Feb. 5, 1903
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	44	Feb. 24, 1900	
True A. Bean	80	Apr. 26, 1901	
Varnum T. Fletcher	60	Mar. 28, 1901	
Elizabeth Lord	36	Jan. 29, 1902	
Ellen McCarty	about 70	July 21, 1901	Sept. 1, 1901

\$22.50 was paid for funeral expenses for J. D. Wilkinson<sup>119</sup> who died Feb. 5, 1903.

In 1904, S.H. Balch began receiving pay as Constable, \$68.13; and on account insane, 7.50.

Persons supported at the Town Farm year ending March 1, 1904

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
John P. Green	76	Dec. 21, 1839	
Thomas Carney	about 93	Jan. 31, 1877	
True A. Bean	81	Apr. 26, 1901	
Caroline A. Perham	80	Jan. 23, 1894	
Varnum T. Fletcher	61	Mar. 28, 1901	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	44	Feb. 24, 1900	
Elizabeth Lord	37	Oct. 22, 1891	
Ellen McCarty	about 70	Oct. 16, 1902	Dec. 1, 1903
Louisa Leland <sup>120</sup>	83	Dec. 25, 1903	

In 1905 S.H. Balch received \$9.00 as constable.

<sup>117</sup> **Margaret O'Brien**, b. in Ireland, abt. 1834, d. at the Westford poor farm, 11 Feb. 1904. Her death record listed her as single, parents as unknown. Samuel Balch was the informant and her burial place was the Catholic cemetery, Westford.

<sup>118</sup> **Edward E. Holt**, b. at Manchester, Eng., abt. 1815, d. at the poor farm, 28 April 1902, son of Edmund and Esther ( ) Holt. Edward m. (2) at Lowell, in Feb. 1870, Margaret Riley, b. in Ireland, abt. 1838, who d. at Groton in 1893. Margaret is interred in Ayer, and Edward is interred in Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

<sup>119</sup> **Joseph D. Wilkerson**, b. at Carlisle 29 Oct. 1818, d. at the poor farm 5 Feb. 1903, son of Robert and Anna (Durant) Wilkerson. Joseph m. (1) at Westford in 1854, Harriet (Chamberlin ) Stevens who d. in 1878, and (2) in 1887, Mary Ann Young (1853-1892). By 1900, Joseph was counted in the census at the poor farm. His death was the result of a fall from his bed. It was erroneously reported that Varnum T. Fletcher had pushed Wilkerson causing him to strike his head. The retraction of the article was on the front page of the *Lowell Sun* on 9 Feb. 1903.

<sup>120</sup> **Louisa Ann (Reed) Leland**, b. at Westford in 1821, died in 1907 at the Tewksbury State Hospital, dau. of Charles and Beulah (Gilson) Reed. Louisa lived at 55 Cold Spring Road. She is a good example of one who received help outside the poor house. In 1900 she received medical aid and medicine, firewood, and groceries from Wright & Fletcher store. Some years her winter months were spent as a resident of the town farm. Her son Hiram was also a resident.

Persons supported at Town Farm, year ending March 1, 1905

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Discharged</b>
John P. Green <sup>121</sup>	77	Dec. 21, 1839	
Thomas Carney	about 94	Jan. 31, 1877	
Elbridge Reed	78	Apr. 10, 1904	
True A. Bean	82	Apr. 26, 1901	
Caroline A. Perham	81	Jan. 23, 1894	
Varnum T. Fletcher	62	Mar. 28, 1901	
Asa Dearborn	about 80	Apr. 18, 1904	
Alice Jackson	59	June 4, 1904	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	46	Feb. 24, 1900	
Louisa A. Leland	84	Dec. 25, 1903	Apr. 22, 1904
Louisa A. Leland	84	Dec. 22, 1904	

Persons Supported at the Poor Farm year ending March 1, 1906

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Discharged</b>
Thomas Carney	about 95	Jan. 31, 1877	
Elbridge Reed	79	Apr. 10, 1904	
Varnum T. Fletcher	63	Mar. 28, 1901	
Asa Dearborn	about 81	Apr. 18, 1904	
Alice Jackson	60	June 4, 1904	
Caroline A. Perham	82	Jan. 23, 1894	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	47	Feb. 24, 1900	
Fidelia Clark	83	Nov. 9, 1905	
Sarah J. Ingalls	43	Mar. 22, 1905	
Louisa A. Leland	85	Dec. 22, 1904	May 13, 1905
Louisa A. Leland	85	Jan. 21, 1906	

Year ending 1906, \$27.90 was paid out in funeral expenses for True A. Bean<sup>122</sup>.

In 1907 there was an expense of \$20.12 for Telephone. In 1957 the phone number was MY2-6221. The original MYrtle exchange became 692-xxxx.

<sup>121</sup> **John Parker Green**, b. at Westford, 5 July 1827, who d. at the poor farm, 25 Feb. 1905, son of John R. and Martha (Parker) Green. Records show he was admitted to the poor farm on 15 Dec. 1839. He, along with his parents and siblings were listed there in 1840. John enlisted at Lowell, 21 Oct. 1861 in Co. C of the 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and was mustered out 2 April 1862 at Ship Island, Miss. In 1855, 1865, and 1870, he was living with his mother in Medway. In 1865 and 1870, he was listed as idiotic. By 1880, he was back in Westford at the poor farm. He was supported there for close to 35 years.

<sup>122</sup> **True A. Bean**, b. at East Charleston, Vt., abt. 1822, d. at the Westford town farm, 4 June 1905, son of Ebenezer and Comfort (Goodwin) Bean. True m. at Westford, 16 August 1848, Mary Ann Blake, b. at Westford, 5 Dec. 1809 (gs), bp. 20 May 1810, who d. there 16 Sept. 1895, dau. of Rev. Caleb and Patty/Martha (Moseley) Blake.

True A. Bean and Mary Ann lived at 14 Depot Street. They are interred in Fairview Cemetery. Stories of True may be found on the Westford Museum website.

Persons supported at the Town Farm, year ending March 1, 1907

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
Thomas Carney <sup>10</sup>	about 96	Jan. 31, 1877	
Varnum T. Fletcher	64	Mar. 28, 1901	
Asa Dearborn <sup>123</sup>	about 82	Apr. 18, 1904	
Caroline A. Perham	83	Jan. 23, 1894	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	48	Feb. 24, 1900	
Sarah J. Ingalls	43	Mar. 22, 1905	

Persons supported at the Town Farm, year ending March 1, 1908

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
Varnum T. Fletcher	65	Mar. 28, 1901	
Caroline A. Perham	84	Jan. 23, 1894	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	49	Feb. 24, 1900	
Sarah J. Ingalls	45	Mar. 22, 1905	

Persons supported at the Town Farm, year ending Feb. 1, 1909

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
Varnum T. Fletcher	66	Mar. 28, 1901	
Caroline A. Perham <sup>124</sup>	85	Jan. 23, 1894	died Apr. 19, 1908
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry	50	Feb. 24, 1900	
Sarah J. Ingalls	46	Mar. 22, 1905	
Peter Lord <sup>125</sup>	84	Aug. 13, 1908	

Expenses in 1908, from 1909 report, included \$30 for fire extinguishers, and \$12.50 was paid to the Westford Water Co. and \$37.70 was spent to connect the water supply.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>123</sup> **Asa Dearborn**, b. at Maine abt. 1824, d. at the town farm, 19 May 1907, son of Asa and Irena (Chase) Dearborn,. The town paid \$31.50 for his burial. He is interred in Strangers Row, Fairview Cemetery, Westford.

The funeral of Asa Dearborn took place from the town farm last Tuesday, Rev. R. H. Carey officiating, owing to the previous engagements of Westford clergymen. The bearers were E. G. Boynton, J. E. Woods, N. L. Prescott and W. E. Parsons. Interment in Fairview cemetery. At one time Mr. Dearborn was the owner of a valuable farm in Maine. Of recent years he has been residing at the corner of Groton and Dunstable roads, with labor suited to his years, until increasing infirmities made necessary a change of residence to the town farm. He leaves two sons, one in Lowell and one in California [*Westford Wardsman*, 25 May 1907].

<sup>124</sup> **Caroline A. (Weston) Perham**, b. at Amherst, N.H., d. at the poor farm died 19 Apr. 1908, age, 84. She was the widow of Allen R. Perham. Her body was returned to Tyngsboro for burial. Westford paid \$30.00 for her burial.

Caroline A. Perham, an inmate of the town farm for fourteen years, died Monday. She was the widow of Allen R. Perham, and until his death lived at the stone house on the farm on the Tyngsboro road, a short distance beyond Flushing pond. She has no known relatives living, an only son having died several years ago [*Westford Wardsman*, 25 April 1908].

<sup>125</sup> **Peter Lord**, an aged man formerly living in Graniteville, has been admitted to the town farm as an inmate. He was removed from the Worcester city hospital, where he was confined on account of a broken hip" [*Westford Wardsman*, 14 March 1908]. "Peter Lord, an inmate of the town farm, died Thursday [13 Aug. 1908]. He was brought to the farm from Worcester last March, suffering with a broken hip. This, with complications incident to his advanced age, were the cause of death. A funeral service was held Friday afternoon at two o'clock in charge of undertaker, D. L. Greig. A Methodist minister from Lowell was the officiating clergyman. Interment was in Fairview cemetery, where his wife and a daughter are buried. He is survived by two sons and a daughter" [*Westford Wardsman*, 29 Aug. 1908].

Persons supported at the Town Farm, year ending Feb. 1, 1910

Name	Age	Admitted	Discharged
Varnum T. Fletcher <sup>127</sup>	67	Mar. 28, 1901	
Mary Elizabeth Cowdry <sup>128</sup>	51	Feb. 24, 1900	
Sarah J. Ingalls	47	Mar. 22, 1905	
Hiram W. Leland	62	Apr. 22, 1909	Jun. 8, 1909
Hiram W. Leland	62	Dec. 30, 1909	

In the time frame 1909-1910, the first record of Dr. C. A. Blaney attending patients at the poor farm is recorded. His bill was \$13.75.

Inmates names were no longer listed after 1910. The Acts of 1910 explain the reason: "Chapter 412, Section 1. No city or town, and no department or official of any city or town in this Commonwealth, shall publish in any annual or other report for general distribution to the public, or to the citizens of any city or town, the names of persons assisted in any way by the poor department of any city or town, or the names of any persons receiving aid under the provisions of Chapter seventy-nine of the Revised Laws and Acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto, residing in such city or town.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved, April 16, 1910."

However, the 1910 Federal Census had the following persons listed.

<b>1910 Federal Census Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
Boynton, Edson G.	Head	42	M	Massachusetts
Boynton, Cornelia A.	Wife	45	M	Massachusetts
Moody, Orrin	Hired Man	35	M	New Hampshire
Moody, Addie E.	Servant	22	M	New Hampshire
Leland, Hiram W.	Inmate	62	Wd	Massachusetts
Ingalls, Sarah	Inmate	47	S	Massachusetts
Cowdry, Mary	Inmate	51	S	New Hampshire
Fletcher, Varnum T.	Inmate	68	M	Massachusetts

<sup>126</sup> **Graniteville.** In spite of the excellent water service now being extended by the Westford Water Co., and with the main pipe running within thirty feet of the town farm in West Graniteville, the town authorities have not installed a system of running water in the town farm buildings for the use of both man and beast. The people at the farm are very much in need of water at the present time owing to the extended dry spell. [*Westford Wardsman*, 26 Sept. 1908]

<sup>127</sup> **Varnum Tuttle Fletcher**, b. at Westford, 28 Feb. 1842, d. at the Worcester [Mass.] State Hospital, 25 July 1910, son of George and Almira (Fletcher) Fletcher. Varnum m. at Westford in 1876, Emma E. Doane. Twelve days before his death, Varnum was transferred from Westford to Worcester. His death certificated indicated cause of death was organic dementia, his marital status was listed as single and interment was in Hope Cemetery, Worcester.

<sup>128</sup> **Mary Elizabeth Cowdrey**, b. at N.H. abt. 1858, dau. of George & Elizabeth (Crawford) Cowdrey, d. 13 Nov 1929, age 71y, 1m, 4d. She is interred in Strangers Row, Fairview Cemetery, Westford. She was a resident at the town farm from 1864 to 1929.

Mary Cowdrey's funeral was mentioned on p. 3 of the *Lowell Sun* on 15 Nov. 1929. "Funeral services for Miss Elizabeth Cowdrey were held yesterday afternoon at the Westford Home. Rev. Roger M. Garland, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Graniteville, officiated, under the direction of Undertakers David L. Greig and Son."

3 Feb. 1912, *Westford Wardsman*, "The board of overseers of the poor have received the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Edson G. Boynton as master and matron of the town farm after seven years of capable service, to take effect April first. Mr. and Mrs. Boynton succeeded Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Balch, and they have always maintained the same excellent standard of efficiency in caring for the place and the inmates. The state inspector of almshouses has always reported this as one of the best cared for in the state."

In 1913, due to an unexpectedly heavy crop of corn, a new silo was erected. Now they could store enough ensilage to last through the winter. The cost for the silo was \$178.09.

1915 - "An unexpected amount of outdoor relief made it necessary for us to exceed our appropriation... Anticipating a large amount of outdoor relief during the present year, and, in view of the fact that the ell of the Town Farm House requires reshingling, and a new bathroom for the inmates seems necessary, we are asking for a larger appropriation than has been usual during the past few years." (year ending 1915, p. 79)

1916 - One inmate died during the year, Lucy Tobie.<sup>129</sup>

1917 - During the past year fire caught on roof of Town Farm house, estimated loss, \$125. Insurance Company demanded fire-proof shingles or better protection from sparks of passing trains. There has been paid to Town Treasurer on account of insurance \$125.00; and on account of sale standing pine timber \$2,875.00.<sup>130</sup>

The fire was mentioned in the *Wardsman* of 19 May 1917. About noon last Saturday a call came to the fire company at the Center to the town farm and what might have been a serious destruction of valuable town property was averted. Mrs. Isles, with her usual efficiency at such times, rallied a good force of helpers who quickly responded and made record time in covering the distance. The fire was on the ell of the roof of the house at the town farm. It was first seen by the electric car men who gave the warning and but for their timely help the fire might have gained much further headway for it could not be seen from the highway. The hose installed at the farm was quickly brought into use and did valuable first aid work. The fire was extinguished after a considerable hole had been burned in the roof. Peter Clement, of the Westford fire company, remembers many years ago that these buildings were again seriously threatened with a bad fire. A man by the name of [Jotham R.] Bagley was superintendent at the farm at that time [1870-71].

One inmate died during 1917, Nathaniel W. Wood<sup>131</sup>, age 62, died 17 Oct. 1917.

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<sup>129</sup> **Lucy B. Tobie**, b. at Bath, Maine, 16 Nov. 1832, d. at the Westford poor farm, 2 Aug. 1916, dau. of Richard & Betty (Arnold) Tobie. "After a lingering illness Miss Lucy B. Tobie died at the town farm last week Thursday, aged eighty-four years. She was a native of Bath, Me., but had been a resident of Westford more than fifty years, living with her sister, the late Mrs. Fletcher Peckens, in the eastern part of the town on Main street and Providence road. As far as can be learned she is the last of her family." [*Westford Wardsman*, 12 Aug. 1916] Lucy is interred in Fairview Cemetery.

<sup>130</sup> At a Special Town Meeting held 19 Nov. 1917, the sale of timber was approved.

<sup>131</sup> **Nathaniel W. Wood**, b. at Holland, Vt., abt. 1855, d. at the Westford poor farm, 17 Oct. 1917. Nathaniel m. at Illinois in 1877, Mary Anderson. In 1900 in Lowell, Nathaniel's occupation was listed as R.R. Station Agent, and in 1910 he was operating a cobbler shop in Lowell. His death certificate listed him as divorced and a resident of 455 Lawrence St., Lowell. He is interred in W. Chelmsford Cemetery.

1919 - Art. 22. Relating to changing the name of the town farm, almshouse, poor farm to something not so suggestive of unfortunate poverty; was, by suggestion of the overseers, to be known henceforth as Westford town home. "At the last Annual Town Meeting the Town voted to authorize the Overseers to change the name of the Town Farm. After due consideration the board decided to change the name Town Farm or Poor House to Westford Home." A new boiler was installed this year. The old one was 23 years old.



<b>1920 Federal Census Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
Ripley, Charles	Head	49	M	Massachusetts
Ripley, Mary	Wife	40	M	Massachusetts
Ripley, Ethel	Daughter	19	S	Massachusetts
Leland, Hiram <sup>132</sup>	Inmate	72	wid	Massachusetts
Cowdry, Mary	Inmate	61	S	New Hampshire
Ingalls, Sarah	Inmate	57	S	Massachusetts
Hildreth, Frank	Inmate	56	wd	Massachusetts

On 30 Aug. 1921, Westford resident, Alfred Oscar Davis, age 80, of Leland Road, and son of Alfred S. and Mary Ann (Shaw) Davis died at the town fram.

### **The Barns at the Town Farm**

Hodgman states on p. 184 of the *History of the Town of Westford*:

“*Barn at the Poor-Farm.* ‘May 1, 1857. Voted to choose a committee to take measures to build a barn or repair the old one at the Poor-Farm the coming year.’ The treasurer was authorized to borrow \$1500 to defray the expense. Nathan S. Hamblin, Charles L. Fletcher and Timothy P. Wright were the building committee. They asked for instructions in April 1858 and the barn was built some time in that year, for they presented their report March 7, 1859, which was accepted and placed on file.”

The next barn was built in 1893.

During 1911, there were expenses for an addition to the barn which came to \$211.31. It included windows.

1920 – Nov. 6. Barn at town farm. Total loss. Value, \$6,000. Insurance, \$1,900. Value, contents, \$4,300. No insurance. Total loss. Fire was undoubtedly set." (Westford Town Report, year ending Dec 31, 1920: Fire report, p. 50)  
(see date in old photos)

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<sup>132</sup> **Hiram W. M. Leland**, b. abt. 1847 died in 1928 at Tewksbury, son of Joseph and Louisa Ann (Reed) Leland. (His name was spelled Lealand in the Mass. death index) Hiram married in 1884 and was widowed in 1889. In 1900 he was counted at 55 Cold Spring Road, Westford, living with his mother.

## BARN DESTROYED BY FIRE

### Thirteen Head of Cattle and Three Horses Lost in Westford Fire

The large two-story barn of the Westford town farm was burned to the ground early this morning and 13 head of cattle and three horses lost as the result of a fire which the authorities of the farm believe was set.

The fire was discovered shortly after 3.30, but had made such headway that it was impossible to enter the building to rescue the stock. A large amount of hay and grain was consumed by the flames.

At times the fire threatened four other buildings which make up the town farm group but the Westford fire department succeeded in saving them by wetting them down. According to the authorities of the farm, there was no oil or other material in the building which might cause combustion, and it is believed that the blaze was the work of an incendiary. An investigation will be made.

*Lowell Sun, 7 Dec. 1920, front page*

From the *Westford Wardsman*, dated 17 June 1922. “**About Town.** At the annual town meeting the finance committee and the overseers of the poor were appointed a committee to investigate in regard to building a barn at the town home in place of the one destroyed by fire a year or more ago, and report at some future special meeting, the date of which has not yet been set. But the above barn project is set for the warrant and it is expected to hatch sometime the last of ‘Oh what is so rare as a day in June’.”

“At a Special Town meeting, held July 7<sup>th</sup>, the citizens of the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be expended to construct a barn at the Westford Town Home. Under the direction of the Overseers of the Poor, bids were called for, the Overseers of the Poor reserving the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Four bids were received and all were rejected because they exceeded the appropriation. The Overseers then purchased all material and contracted for the labor to construct the barn which has been completed according to specifications.” Westford Town Report, year ending Dec. 31, 1922.

1922 - Repairs: Several rooms inside the Almshouse were refreshed by papering, painting, and whitening. This work was done by the superintendent. At a special Town

meeting, held July 7th, the citizens of the Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be expended to construct a barn at the Westford Town Home. The bids came in over \$3,000 so the Overseers then purchased all material and contracted for the labor to construct the barn.

1923 - When we consider our situation three years ago, with nothing left of the Home Farm barn and contents but a pile of debris and ashes, and part insurance, it is with pleasure we present to the people of our town the condition at the present time of what seems to us as in the line of prosperity. The implements and stock were replaced, and the property protected by insurance.

1924 - The buildings have been wired and electric lights installed. New toilet in basement of the house. Drinking bowls for the cattle installed in the barn, and above all, a picturesque weather vane<sup>133</sup> placed on top of cupola. The cottage (red house so called) has been thoroughly repaired and now occupied by a mother and four dependent children. The upkeep and care of Home and inmates by the Matron is of the best. Same can be said of our Superintendent.

1925 - There have been two deaths of inmates. For the past two years a mother and four dependant children (feeble mind) - have been given support outside of the Home, three oldest of these children have been admitted to the School for Feeble Mind at Waverly. The mother and youngest child is now at the Home, this child will also be admitted to the School soon as eligible by age. From further reading it becomes evident that the Kendalls do not plan to return in 1926. "Mrs. Kendall has been kind to the inmates, used proper discipline, Economy of Expenses, Sanitary condition of the Home. We hardly know where we can equal her as Matron. Mr. Kendall has given good-satisfaction as Superintendent, upkeep of the farm product of farm and dairy, we consider quite pleasing."

1926 - The outside of the House was given two coats of paint. Wesley O. Hawkes, who served on the Board of Overseers died this year and was very much missed on the board. We have retained Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Pillman as Superintendent and Matron for the coming year. Chas. A. Blodgett, Chairman; Perley E. Wright, Secretary; Edson G. Boynton, Overseers.

1928 - During the year, lightning rods were installed on the buildings at the Westford Infirmary. Also a silo has been erected.

<b><u>1930 Federal Census</u></b> <b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
Maynard, George E.	Head	53	M	Vermont
Maynard, Carrie E.	Wife	56	M	New Hampshire
Maynard, Thelma	Daughter	10	S	New Jersey
Alcome, Howard (sic Howard	Lodger	16	S	Canada-English

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<sup>133</sup> It was Maurice Rooks who donated the weather vane from the barn to the Westford Historical Society in 1982. The article from the *Westford Eagle* is included at the end of this document.

Alcorn)				
Ingalls, Sarah	Inmate	68	S	Massachusetts
Reed, Florence <sup>134</sup>	Inmate	45	Wid	Massachusetts
Cummings, Roy	Inmate	68	S	Massachusetts
Guertin, David	Inmate	48	M	Connecticut

1930 - It was deemed necessary to change superintendent and matron and Mr. Bert Brown and wife were hired. They come well recommended, he as farmer and herdsman and she as matron... The cattle have been exchanged and added to until they are producing quite a flow of milk at the present time. We have taken two boarders from other towns which helps the income.

1931 - Whenever it was possible those aided were required to do some sort of work and several other departments of the town received extra work in this way. The entire inside of the Infirmary was painted and papered, a new poultry house was built, the pasture was cleared of brush and about 70 cords of wood were cut. The general condition of the milk business has been such that very little profit has been made from this source. An article has been inserted in the Town Warrant to see what action the town will take on disposing of the cattle and other personal property in order to reduce the expenses.

1932 - The cost of our Outside Aid has increased on all sides... Over 80 families have been helped during the past year not including those aided by the Community Chest... The Red Cross donated 1000 bags of flour together with large quantities of cloth and clothing.

On 9 May 1934, p. 13, the *Lowell Sun* reported that Edward Clark, age 72, born at Newfoundland and a resident of the town farm, had gone out for a walk after his dinner and while lighting his pipe, his clothing caught fire. He died at the Lowell Hospital.

In 1935, Article 8 on the Warrant stated: "To see what action the Town will take relative to letting, or otherwise providing for the use and occupancy of the Town Infirmary, and for boarding, or otherwise making provision for the care of those falling in need of assistance.

1937 - The Board of Public Welfare was dealt a severe blow by the sudden death of Michael McGlinchey who had served capably as Welfare Agent for several years.

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<sup>134</sup> **Florence Reed.** Florence Kate Mason, b. at Groton, 28 April 1884, d. at Lowell, 14 March 1974, daughter of Frank and Catherine (Dallendorf) Mason. Florence m. at Westford 20 Aug 1914, William Reed, b. 15 April 1868, d. 12 Aug. 1923. There were four children; the last one born 16 March 1923, five months before her father William's death. By 1930, Florence was living in the poor farm. Her children were in the Fernald School in Waltham. In 1949, Florence was still listed as a resident at the poor farm. In 1957, the Westford city directory listed her as "Mrs. Florence Reed, wid. of William," living at the Westford Rest Home. She is interred with William in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

At a hearing in January 1938, the Overseers asked for Mr. Brown's resignation due to increase in expenses at the town farm. After Brown left Westford, "He accepted a position as supervisor at the Shirley Industrial school." (*Lowell Sun*, June 27, 1938)

"June 21, 1938: Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Connell were appointed superintendent and matron of Westford infirmary at the meeting of the board of public welfare on Monday night. They will replace Mr. and Mrs. Bert G. Brown and begin their work June 27. Mr. and Mrs. Connell are natives of Westford and live in the firehouse cottage on Boston road. Others who applied were: Charles S. Ripley, a former superintendent, Fred Rogers, Walter Gee of Groton, Wilfred Gileanus and William McCarthy of Graniteville." (Bosworth)

"June 29, 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Connell, new superintendent and matron of the Westford infirmary, moved Tuesday. Chief Alonzo H. Sutherland of the Westford fire department stated last night that while there were several applications for the fire house cottage, nothing would be decided until the meeting of the engineers on July 11." Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Connell began their new duties June 27, 1938. "Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Wright entertained their drivers, wives and friends Sunday afternoon at a farewell party for Leo J. Connell, who resigned his position after 18 years of service with the Wright Trucking Co., to take up his work as the superintendent of the Westford infirmary.

<b><u>1940 Federal Census</u></b> <b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
Connell, Leo J.	Superintendent	41	M	Massachusetts
Connell, Yvonne	Wife	38	M	Mass.
Connell, Doris	Daughter	15	S	Mass.
Connell, Robert	Son	9	S	Mass.
Connell, Lorraine	Daughter	6	S	Mass.
Lamy, Adelinaw	Maid	52	M	Canada/French
Eastman, Charles	Inmate	70	S	Mass.
Forson, Anthony	Inmate	51	M	Poland
Reed, Florence	Inmate	56	wid.	Mass.
Reed, Ephraim	Inmate	72	wid.	Mass.
Pelletier, Joseph <sup>135</sup>	Inmate	73	M	Canada/French
Pelletier, Mary	Inmate	76	M	Canada/French
Erickson, Maria	Inmate	72	wid.	Finland
Chandler, Emma	Inmate	80	wid.	Mass.
Hulstrom, Carl	Inmate	82	S	Sweden
Odell, Robert	Inmate	72	S	Canada

Black Angora Cat – Double paws. Finder please return. Reward. Mrs. Connell, Westford Infirmary. (*Lowell Sun*, June 1942)

<sup>135</sup> Joseph Fletcher, age 76, died at the Westford Infirmary, 3 Feb. 1943.

At a town meeting held in Chelmsford in July 1942 it was voted to discontinue the town farm. Three residents were transferred to the Westford Infirmary. Chelmsford agreed to pay the Westford welfare department annually \$500 per person for their care. (Form B – Building, [www.chelmsfordgov.com](http://www.chelmsfordgov.com) > [CHCwebsite](#) > [PDF\\_files](#) ) *Lowell Sun* article dated 24 July 1942.

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Connell resigned in April 1949. (Westford Town Report for the year ending December 31, 1949, p. 76)

<b><u>1949 City Directory</u></b>
<b>Name</b>
Warren, Elmer <sup>136</sup>
Reed, Mrs. Florence
Lord, Howard <sup>137</sup>
Glines, Frank
Forson, Anthony
Erikson, Mary
Bridgeford, Wm. Farmhand/resident <sup>138</sup>
Alice Morton, helper

“On November 16, 1952, fire damaged part of the house. This will be renovated during the coming year.” (Westford town report, year ending Dec. 31, 1952, p. 63) The newspaper article from the front page of the *Lowell Sun* of 17 Nov. 1952 is included at the end of this document.

At a special town meeting held 22 Dec. 1952, voters approved Article 3 which was the sum of \$12,586.36 to be transferred from Available Funds to account entitled Welfare Department (Town Infirmary) to pay for repairs to the building and for repair or replacement to personal property.

And to add insult to injury, hurricane Carol in 1954 damaged the barn roof. Repairs came to \$384.16.

“At the Westford Infirmary, new safety signals were installed as recommended by the Department of Public Safety.” Report of the Board of Public Welfare, Reginald Blowey, Samuel A. Richards, William C. MacMillan. (Westford Town Report for the year ending December 31, 1955, p. 79) Salary for the Superintendent and Matron that year was \$1,903.92.

“At the Westford Infirmary, necessary repairs were made and five of the rooms were redecorated.” Report of the Board of Public Welfare, William C. MacMillan, Samuel A. Richards, Reginald Blowey. (Westford Town Report for the year ending December 31, 1958, p. 68)

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<sup>136</sup> Elmer Warren was from Chelmsford. He died at Westford 17 Feb. 1949.

<sup>137</sup> Howard Lord was from Chelmsford.

<sup>138</sup> William Bridgeford (1894-1959) was from Chelmsford and is interred in Riverside Cem., N. Chelms.

<b><u>1957 Street Directory</u></b> <b>Westford Town Infirmary</b>
Wheeler, Clifford <sup>139</sup>
Osman, Nels

“On April 3, 1959, the last patient at the Westford Infirmary was transferred to the Tewksbury Hospital and the home was officially closed. The remaining cattle were disposed of in September. Until other arrangements are made, Mr. and Mrs. Rooks will remain at the home as Caretakers. It is hoped that in the spring the main house can be painted and necessary repairs made to part of the roof. Signed: Samuel A. Richards, Reginald Blowey, William C. MacMillan, Board of Public Welfare.” (Westford Town Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1959, p. 55)

“The Town Farm was painted this year and is being kept in good condition.” Signed: Reginald Blowey, William C. MacMillan, Samuel A Richards, Board of Public Welfare. (Westford Town Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1960, p. 56)

In a phone interview with former chief, George Rogers, he said that the Selectmen turned that whole property over to the Westford Fire Department after it closed as the town farm. The Fire Department was only interested in the barn as a training site. So they demolished the new, 1922, barn around 1970 and had it in a pile to burn and someone beat them to it. So around 1970/71 is when it was demolished. He said the Fire Department had more room than it needed so they let the Police Department use space and they had a dark room in back for a while. [In 1971 it was voted to transfer some of the town farm land to the fire department for training purposes. *Lowell Sun*, 26 May 1971]

The George Rogers fire station was added to the property in 2000. The early town farm had 170 acres. Several acres were taken to build the Day School. In 2002, there were still 5.95 acres associated with this property.

In 1970, the Administration Offices of the Westford School Department made their move into the old Poor Farm. The Administrative offices remained in the building until the summer of 2003. As of Nov. 2003 the buildings were unused. “The Office of the Superintendent of Schools, originally in the high school [Abbot School in 2020] until forced out to make way for increased student enrollment Sept. 1969, once again packed for a move from leased quarters at 54 Main Street to the recently abandoned Roudenbush School....The central office was opened for business as usual Monday, Jan. 26. This moving experience served the administrative staff well when the time arrived for the third

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<sup>139</sup> **Clifford Stewart Wheeler**, b. at Fitchburg in 1890, d. at the Tewksbury Hospital, 22 Jan. 1967, son of Albert and Susan (Heffernan) Wheeler. He is very likely the last patient from the Westford Infirmary who was transferred to Tewksbury. He is interred in Hillside Cemetery, Westford.

move to 35 Town Farm Road, permanent quarters, hopefully, the third move in a year's time." (Year end. Dec. 31, 1970 Westford town report, p. 159)

In 2007 the Parks and Recreation Department moved into the building. According to Michelle Collett, Parks moved out of Town Farm on February 26, 2016 and moved into the training room in the basement of the George Rogers fire station; then moved to the Millworks, at 22 Town Farm Road, a year later when she became the Asst. Director.

On 14 March 2008, the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. See <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?MhcId=WSR.32>



*Lowell Sun*, 17 Nov. 1952, front page and p. 3, following



## Fire Guts Main Building at Westford Town Infirmary

Eight Aged Patients Led to Safety Over Ladders by Superintendent at 3.30 A. M.

(Special to The Sun)

**FORGE VILLAGE, Nov. 17**—The main structure of the Westford Infirmary, owned by the town of Westford since 1824, and originally the John Reed place, on Town Farm road, was gutted by fire yesterday, at an estimated loss of \$20,000. Only the outstanding work of the superintendent, Maurice B. Rooks, and his son, Warren, 22, saved the eight ill and elderly patients from injury or death.

At 3.30 a. m. William Bridgeford, aged 57, a patient, called Mr. and Mrs. Rooks when he was awakened by the heavy smoke, which filled the three floors of the building. Mr. Rooks gave orders to the patients to remain in their rooms and then he and his son removed them to safety through the windows.

Mrs. Florence Reed, aged 68, became confused and wandered into the hall outside her room, where she received second and third degree burns on her face, neck, hand and arms. She was taken to the office of Dr. Cyril A. Blaney, Westford, who gave her first aid and then ordered her removed to the Lowell General Hospital in the Westford ambulance.

### Break Window

It was necessary to break an upstairs window to remove one patient who was unable to open his window from the inside, because of his confusion and fright. The others were able to co-operate with Mr. Rooks and his son and were carried to safety down the fire escape and through the front door.

The Forge Village, Grandville and Westford companies responded, and the work of saving the ell of the building, where the superintendent and his family live, and the barn, with 20 head of cattle, was carried on under the direction of Edmund D. Rogers, the fire chief, and Harold E. Wright, the assistant chief. A company from Groton remained at the Westford fire station to take care of any other emergencies.

Mr. Rooks was severely cut by glass when he was attempting his rescue work and Floyd Alderich, a member of the Graniteville company, also received cuts from glass. Both required medical aid.

The men patients, William Bridgeford, 57; Nels Osman, 85; Anthony Forson, 64; and James Lauren, about 60, were removed to the Faris Memorial hospital.

Continued on Page Three

## Town Farm Hit By Fire

Continued from Front Page

Lowell. Mrs. Maria Erickson, 85, was taken to the home of relatives, and Mrs. Reed to the hospital. Mrs. Catherine Hill, 69, and Clifford Wheeler, 62, remained at the infirmary.

### Starts in Dining Room

The fire, of which the cause has not yet been determined, is believed to have started in the patients' dining room on the first floor. Although the building has a central heating system, a small stove is kept for emergency use. Mrs. Rooks, the matron, who served the patients supper, stated that there had been no fire in the stove during the evening. Only the brick walls of the main building kept the fire from reaching the ell of the infirmary, occupied by the superintendent, although the family dining room, which is next to the room where the fire started, is badly damaged by water and smoke. The fire worked up along this wall, burning the entire three floors of the main building. The damage to the furniture and clothing of the patients has not been estimated, although this will be largely from smoke and water.

### Loss Covered

William L. Wall, chairman of the board of public welfare, said the loss was believed to be covered by a blanket insurance held by the town on all its property, and it is estimated that the town will receive 80 per cent of its loss to repair the building. The Westford infirmary, well equipped and showing a financial profit, to the town, is generally believed to be a more economical way of taking care of the town's patients than boarding them elsewhere. Patients from other towns are boarded here also.

Mr. Wall said that the town would hire an appraiser to protect its interests. In behalf of the board, Mr. Wall expressed the appreciation of the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Rooks and their son, Warren, and also to the men of the fire department. Mr. Rooks also wanted to thank the firemen for their assistance.

Coffee was made at the town hall by James L. Knowlton and served to the firemen who remained on duty throughout the night. A large crowd gathered at the time of the fire and all through the day, people came to view the damage.

Lowell Sun, 17 Nov. 1952

*Lowell Sun*, Sunday, March 7, 1954

Hundreds Expected at "Open House" This Afternoon  
Interior of Building Redecorated, Modern Facilities installed to Aid Patients

WESTFORD March 6- Open house will be held Sunday Afternoon at the Westford Infirmary from 2-5 p.m. when the public is invited to view the building, which has been repaired and equipped for use, following a fire, on November 16, 1952. Hundreds are expected to visit the institution during the open house.

The work of repairing has been carried out by the committee appointed by Ben W. Drew, moderator, to work with the welfare board, William I. Wells, chairman: Samuel A. Richards and Reginald W. Blowey. This committee is Edward F. Harrington, chairman of the of the board of selectmen: Moses L. Fecteau and Richard W. Hall. The architect was Arthur England and the contract was awarded to the Thomas W. Johnson Co. of Lowell, lowest bidder.

At a special town meeting held Dec. 23, 1952, it was voted to transfer \$12,586.39 from available funds for the purpose of repairing damage caused to the town infirmary by fire and to repair or replace personal property at the infirmary destroyed or damaged by fire. The voters at a special town meeting July 28, 1953 voted an additional sum of \$8,900.00 for this purpose, in addition to the original amount.

During this time while the repairs have been underway, the patients and persons formerly boarded at the infirmary, have been housed outside, two at the Farris Memorial Hospital, Lowell; and two in convalescent homes and two others have remained with Mr. and Mrs. Maurice B. Rooks, the superintendent and matron, in their home which adjoins the infirmary where only one room was damaged in the recent fire.

### **Spacious Rooms**

The white brick building faces the west and the morning sun enters the windows when it first rises and shines into the spacious rooms until it sets at night. There are two or more large windows in every room and two doors, in each of the eleven rooms. Two of the rooms, a bedroom and a living room are new.

The rooms have been redecorated in lovely soft pastel shades of pink, blue and yellow and grey. Dainty ruffled curtains were made by a Westford manufacturer.

Some of the larger rooms are equipped for two people and the smaller rooms for only one. The furniture is new and also the mattresses and bedding for all beds which are single. Lovely soft blankets match the colors in each room.

The furniture is walnut and each patient has a bedside stand, a bureau or chest of drawers, with a mirror to match. Also, a roomy, comfortable and study rocking chair. The huge radiators in every room assure comfort for the aged and ill.

The floors of the entire building are covered with linoleum in a soft shade which harmonizes with the colors of each room and the electrical fixtures have been selected in matching shades.

There are two large bathrooms and the one on the lower floor contains a shower.

### **Dining Rooms**

The dining room on the first floor has been equipped with two chrome dining tables, seating six each and matching chairs in chrome and grey. The dishes are plastic in a shade of soft blue and tumblers are of metal in contrasting shades. From the dining room one may enter the comfortable and homelike sitting room, furnished with several large, new easy chairs, smoking stands, a large library table with magazines, lamps and plants.

A hospital room on the first floor is equipped with a hospital bed and other necessities and has easy access from the superintendent's and matron's apartment.

### **Safety Measures**

Safety has been the keynote in the restoration and improvement of the infirmary. One of the outstanding features is the new stairway, of extra width to enable attendants to assist the infirm easily. Wide, low steps and gradual ascent will be enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Two heavy new fire doors, one on each floor, have been installed which are equipped to close automatically when the temperature in the building reaches a certain degree. Every room has two exits and all doors leading into the main halls are without fastenings. On the upper floor two steps lead to a casement type window which opens without effort onto the fire escape.

The original lines of the this old landmark have been retained on the outside and the original doorways, destroyed in the fire, have been copied. A winding brick path leads to the main door.

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This English "Atlas" Grindley China was used when the Overseers made their quarterly dinner visits to the town farm. The WHS has the dishes in its collection.



This barn was built in 1922 after the earlier one was destroyed by fire in 1920.  
Polaroid photographs from the 1960s. WHS collection.





THE WESTFORD EAGLE

## From the barn to the museum...

# "The cow" finds a new home

By Angela Cosgrove

After years atop the barn on what was once the town farm, "the cow," a bronze weather vane that's more than 100 years old, is in its new home at the Westford Museum.

Maurice Rooks, caretaker of the town farm, now the site of the school department's administrative offices, since 1949, recently presented the weather vane to the town, but not without admonishing its new caretakers to "anchor it down good."

When Rooks came to town farm, "the cow," as he affectionately calls the weather vane, was perched on top of the old barn. But one day, Rooks recalls, he looked upward and it was gone.

Rooks alerted police and also related the story to his daughter-in-law, who worked in a nearby school. Rooks' daughter-in-law "kept her ears open," he says, and when she overheard a conversation about the weather vane, she called Rooks and the police.

Police recovered "the cow" in a short time, Rooks reminisces. But it had been spray painted gold. Rooks took it to the barn, where he cleaned the weather vane he had come to treasure.

"I didn't get it in time, though," Rooks laments. "Some

of the gold paint started to dry and it stuck to 'the cow.' If I had had it a little sooner, I would have been able to really wipe it clean."

That was the first time Rooks saved "the cow." After that, he kept it hidden in the barn. But when town officials decided to burn down the old barn, Rooks found himself saving the weather vane a second time.

The fire department was in position, ready to control the blaze when it was set, Rooks remembers, when he drove into the driveway. Before he could ask what was happening, the side of the barn started to burn.

Thoughts of "the cow" uppermost in mind, Rooks dashed into the building and retrieved it from its hiding place.

"After that, I took it into the house and locked it up where no one would find it," Rooks smiles. "I had heard stories around town about where it was made and how old it was, and I figured it was worth holding on to. I didn't know what else to do with it. But I didn't think I had the right to give it away."

The town museum is a fitting house for "the cow," Rooks feels. But he suggested to museum administrators that it be rebronzed and bolted down.

There is the possibility that a

set of dishes from town farm may also be donated to the museum. According to Rooks, the dishes, which belong to the town, were used once a year when selectmen and state officials came to inspect the premises.

The large conference room on the first floor of the school administration building once served as the large dining room where Rooks' wife served the visitors.

The china, a traditional blue print on a white background, remains intact except for two pieces. "We don't know how old it is; it was here when we came," Rooks notes. "But if the town wants it, they can have it."

Rooks has seen many changes on Town Farm Road. When he arrived on April 15, 1949, he was not only the caretaker and administrator of the grounds surrounding the town's shelter for the economically unfortunate, he was also the jailkeeper. And he was a volunteer firefighter when needed.

In those days the jail was located in the basement beneath Rooks' present quarters.

Most of his time, however, was spent planting crops and tending



**Former School Superintendent Lloyd Blanchard, new president of Friends of the Westford Museum, accepted the gift of an antique weather vane from Maurice Rooks, caretaker of the Town Farm for 40 years. Looking on at the presentation is John Crisafulli, assistant school superintendent.**

**(Photo by Marlene Bryant)**

the animals on the 200-acre farm. "My wife did all the cooking. And anything we could eat I grew," he boasts.

There were also 12-15 milking cows, hens, and several pigs on the property.

Rooks was not always a farmer, however. A graduate of Wentworth Institute, he was employed

for several years in the plumbing and heating business. But, during World War II, according to Rooks, most of his customers repaired their furnaces. The result was lean economic times for Rooks, who moved from Fitchburg to Westford where he found work on a large farm.

Over the years he has kept his

interest in farming. Even though he says he's too old now to pick beans and other vegetables that grow close to the ground, he still likes to have a garden in the back yard.

But memories of two incidents bring a smile to his face — the times he saved "the cow."

*The Westford Eagle*, 18 Nov. 1982, p. 3  
From the files at the Westford Historical Society



At some time after the 1952 fire, a screened porch was added to the back of the building. In 1997 while being used by the school department the porch area was converted to four office spaces. Rich McLaughlin and John Haran worked on the project, led by Richie Crocker who was school maintenance director. The photographs were taken by Mr. Crocker. Rick McLaughlin shared the photos and information. So far, these are the only older views of the back of the building we've seen.



1997. Porch being removed. John Haran on roof.



1997. Old doorway to porch. Kitchen to the right.



Photograph by Alan L. Chaffee taken September 2019 showing former porch area.



## Bibliography

“A Register of the Dead Buried in the East Burying Ground by Levi Snow, commencing April 17, 1835.” This continues with burial records by Samuel L. Hutchins through 23 Dec. 1880. These records were transcribed by William B. Prescott. He has also added notes.

<http://genealogytrails.com/mass/almshouse.html> An excellent recap of all the town farms in Massachusetts.

Meltsner, Heli. *The Poorhouses of Massachusetts, A Cultural and Architectural History* (McFarland & Co., Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, North Carolina, and London).

Westford Town Book, journal commencing 10 March 1827. Listings of people in the town farm and expenses.

Westford Town Book, account book from the town farm dated 1829 to 1831.

Also see Find-a-Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial> and the Westford Historical Society webpage <https://museum.westford.org/> for more information on many of the people mentioned in this document.

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<sup>1</sup> **Samuel H. Balch**, b. at Goffstown, N.H., in 1854, d. at Westford, 2 Feb. 1839, son of Moses and Mary A. (Burnham) Balch. Samuel m. (1) Ella L. Mudgett, (1859-1906). He m. (2) as her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, Clara Porter (Comey) Carlin, 1861-1942). Samuel and Ella are interred in Westlawn Cem., Goffstown, N.H.

<sup>2</sup> **Edson Grant Boynton**, b. at Manchester, N.H., abt. 1869, d. at Westford, 5 April 1943, son of George P. and Fidelia L. (Severance) Boynton. Edson m. at Westford, in 1895, Cornelia Ada Read (1864-1937). His obituary was published in the *Lowell Sun* on 6 April 1943. “Edson G. Boynton, a life-long resident of Westford and prominent in town affairs over a long period of years, died yesterday at the Lowell General hospital, aged 74 years. During the greater part of his life he was an orchard-owner in Chamberlain road, Westford and was a member of the Nashoba Fruit producers association. Among the town positions which he held was membership on the welfare board and as superintendent of the Westford infirmary. He was a charter member and past master of Westford Grange and a member of Middlesex North Pomona Grange. He was a member of the First Parish (United) and also was active in the Men’s Fellowship class of the Calvary Baptist church here, where he often served as soloist. He leaves a niece, Inez Boynton of Nashua, N.H.”

<sup>3</sup> **Charles Titus Ripley**, d. 17 Feb. 1941. His middle name is also seen as Stevens.

Obituary: Charles Titus Ripley, for the past 25 years a resident of Westford, died last night at the Lowell General hospital after a brief illness.

He was born in Dorchester, Aug. 26, 1870. He was educated in the schools of that city and was graduated from the Dorchester high school. Mr. Ripley went to Holliston to make his home, then to Harvard. He was the son of Eliab and Fanny (Littlefield Ripley), and was married in 1899 to Miss Mary Pattee of Harvard.

Mr. Ripley was superintendent of the town farm in Harvard for two years and left there to come to Westford, where he served as superintendent for six years, moving to Westford Center 18 years ago. With his family he lived in an apartment in the Hamlin house and recently bought the present home in Hildreth street.

Mr. Ripley was an attendant of the Union Congregational church and at one time was a member of the State Guard. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary A. Ripley; a daughter, Mrs. Austin D. Fletcher, [Ethel Minerva] both of Westford; a son, Edward A. Ripley of U.S.S. Puerto Rico; a sister, Mrs. Robert

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McKenzie of Cambridge; three grandsons, a granddaughter, and several nieces and nephews. (*Lowell Sun*, 18 Feb. 1941, p. 3)

Obituary: Mrs. **Mary A. Ripley**. On Sunday, January 17, 1971, a resident of Westford for over 60 years died at the Hallworth House, Providence, R.I. after an illness of one month. She was born in West Groton on February 28, 1879, the daughter of Horace Barrows and Abbie Ann (Wood) Pattee. On October 11, 1899, at Harvard, Mass., she was married to Charles Stevens Ripley. From that union a daughter Ethel M. was born in 1901, and in 1920, they adopted a son, Edward A.

In 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Ripley moved from Harvard to Westford to become Supt. and Matron of the Westford Town Farm, which positions they had for nearly five years. Following the death of Mr. Ripley in February, 1941, Mrs. Ripley worked for 12 years at the Old Ladies Home in Lowell.

Mrs. Ripley was long an active member of the Westford Grange and in 1963 was awarded her fifty-year pin. She was preceded in death by her husband and by her daughter Ethel (Ripley) Fletcher, wife of Austin D. Fletcher of Westford. She is survived by her son Edward of Chelmsford, Mass.; a sister, Mrs. Frank Blair of Hudson, Mass.; four grand-children, Rev. Canon C. R. Fletcher of Providence, R.I., A. Dana and Harold Fletcher, and Mrs. Lawrence R. Smith all of Westford; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Burial services for Mrs. Ripley were held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Westford, on Tuesday, January 19, with the rector, the Rev. William Mawhinney, officiating. Burial was in Westlawn cemetery, Littleton. (*Westford Eagle*, Jan. 28, 1971)

Their daughter, **Ethel Minerva Ripley**, b. at Harvard, Mass., in 1901, d. at Westford in 1955. Ethel m. at Westford in 1922, Austin Dana Fletcher (1899-1992). According to Ellen Harde, the Fletcher bench on the Westford town common, located in front of the house where the Fletchers had lived at 6 Lincoln Street, was donated in their honor by their children.

- <sup>4</sup> **Bert Gardner Brown**, b. at Framingham, 9 Dec. 1884, d. at Lakeville, Mass. in 1949, son of William and Martha (Merrill) Brown. Bert m. at Brockton, Mass. in 1907, Pearl E. Hill. Bert seems to have been brought up with a family history of town farm caretakers, as in 1900, he was living with his parents who were then caretakers of the town farm in Weymouth.

“**Hearing.** A hearing took place on Thursday evening in the town hall before the board of public welfare, who asked Bert G. Brown, superintendent of the infirmary, to appear and explain why the expenses of the town farm had increased during the past year, and to ask for his resignation at this time because of this. At a recent meeting of the board a vote of 2 to 1 decided this step. At the hearing on Thursday evening which lasted from 7.30 until 12.30, Mr. Brown was able to explain this matter to the satisfaction of the members and they found no other cause against him. John A. Kimball, a member of the board, rescinded his vote and the matter will be dropped for the present. Mrs. Brown attended the hearing with her husband, who has been superintendent of the infirmary for the past eight years, and she has served as matron during this time. The action of the board of welfare was a surprise to many of the citizens who feel that the farm has improved under Mr. Brown's term of service. The yearly appraisal took place last week and the reports of the general condition there, care of the inmates and also the property were of the highest order.” (*Lowell Sun*, 7 Jan. 1938)

- <sup>5</sup> **Betsy Hildreth**, was born at Westford, 8 April 1810 and died there, 29 Jan. 1883, daughter of Jesse and Olive (Fletcher) Hildreth. Betsy's death record indicated epilepsy as her cause of death. The *Hildreth Family Association*, vol.4, p. 60, states, “At the time of her death she was sick, insane, and a pauper.” “In 1843 Dorothea Dix, the mental health advocate, described a harrowing experience when a young insane woman in the almshouse. Betsy was confined to a pleasant room but kept naked, except for a ragged blanket (*The Poorhouses of Massachusetts*, p. 178). This is very likely the Betsy that Ms. Dix was referring to as the other Betsy Hildreth in the list of residents probably didn't enter the poor farm until about 1855.
- <sup>6</sup> **Asenath Carlton**, bpt. at Ashburnham, Mass., 15 May 1785, who d. at the Westford poor farm, 18 Nov. 1838, dau. of Nathan and Abigail (Spaulding) Carlton. Asenath m. at Westford, 7 July 1803, James Goodhue. Their marriage record shows she was of Chelmsford. Westford death records state, “Asenath, w. James [pauper], Nov. 18, 1838, a. 53y. On 28 Aug. 1813, James Goodhue, of Westford, Mass., posted the following legal notice in the *Columbian Centinel*: “Whereas, Asenath, wife of me the subscriber has eloped from my bed and board, and has otherwise behaved in an indecent and unbecoming manner – I hereby forbid all persons harbouring or trusting her on my account, as I am determined not to be responsible for any debts incurred by her contracting, after this date. JAMES GOODHUE, *Westford, August*

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18, 1813.” In 1815 he requested the bonds of matrimony between them be dissolved. Asenath Goodhue is interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

- <sup>7</sup> Following Heli Meltsner’s visit to the Westford Historical Society, she got to see Westford’s and Littleton’s poor farms. She then sent an article written by Dorothea Dix (website: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/DIX/dorothea.html>) in the Old South Leaflets, Vol. VI, p 15: Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts 1843.

*The Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts* 1843, by Dorothea L. Dix.

“Westford. Not many miles from Wayland is a sad spectacle; was told by the family who kept the poorhouse that they had twenty-six paupers, one idiot, one simple and one insane, an incurable case from Worcester Hospital. I requested to see her, but was answered that she “wasn’t fit to be seen. She was naked, and made so much trouble they did not know how to get along.” I hesitated but a moment. I must see her I said. I cannot adopt descriptions of the condition of the insane secondarily. What I assert for fact, I must see for myself. On this I was conducted above stairs into an apartment of decent size, pleasant aspect from abroad, and tolerably comfortable in its general appearance; but the inmates - grant I may never look upon another such scene! A young woman, whose person was partially covered with portions of a blanket, set upon the floor; her hair dishevelled; her naked arms crossed languidly over the breast; a distracted, unsteady eye and low, murmuring voice betraying both mental and physical disquiet. About the waist was a chain, the extremity of which was fastened into the wall of the house. As I entered, she raised her eyes, blushed, moved uneasily, endeavoring at the same time to draw about her the insufficient fragments of the blanket. I knelt beside her and asked if she did not wish to be dressed. ‘Yes, I want some clothes.’ ‘But you’ll tear ’em all up, you know you will,’ interposed her attendant. ‘No, I won’t, I won’t tear them off,’ and she tried to rise, but the waist-encircling chain threw her back, and she did not renew the effort, but, bursting into a wild, shrill laugh, pointed to it, exclaiming, ‘See there, see there, nice clothes!’ Hot tears might not dissolve that iron bondage, imposed, to all appearances, most needlessly. As I left the room, the poor creature said, ‘I want my gown.’ The response from the attendant might have roused to indignation one not dispossessed of reason and owning self-control.”

- <sup>8</sup> **Mary Perry.** Mary “Polly” Lovejoy, b. abt. 1761, d. at Westford, 7 Sept. 1844. Mary m. at Dunstable, in June 1775, Obadiah Perry of Andover, who d. 16 Nov. 1827, son of Obadiah and Elizabeth (Kimball) Perry. Obadiah was listed as a Corpl. in Revolutionary War pension records. When Mary applied for his pension, W.13807, Abijah Reed of Westford gave an affidavit regarding their marriage and stated, “I, Abijah Reed, of Westford, in the county of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, aged eighty nine years on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July now last past, do depose and say that I was well acquainted with Obadiah Perry and Mary Perry, wife of the said Obadiah Perry before they were married – her name before the marriage was Mary, or as she was called, Pol Lovejoy. Obadiah Perry was in the Eight Months service and as I was told at that time and a letter was sent to Obadiah Perry to come up and be married as his girl Pol Lovejoy was in a family way, and it was said at that time that they went to Dunstable, N.H. or Massachusetts, am unable to say which to be married and was within a day or two after the marriage sent for to go to Cambridge to join the Army. It was about the time of the battle of Bunker Hill that the marriage was said to have taken place. Obadiah Perry and Pol Lovejoy always lived together as man and wife. And I knew Obadiah Perry as long as he lived and had a large family.” Signed by Abijah Reed on 18 Nov. 1843. John W. P. Abbot, J.P. witnessed the affidavit.

When daughter Mary (Perry) Prescott gave her affidavit stated that, “My father had fourteen children of whom I am the oldest. I think he died in Nov<sup>r</sup>, 1828 or 9.” Mary Perry, b. 1775, m. at Westford, 2 Aug. 1796, Abel Prescott<sup>2d</sup> (1773-1821) son of John and Grace (Potter) Prescott.

Mary (Lovejoy) Perry’s affidavit refers to their marriage on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 1775. In her declaration she states that Obadiah was in the battle of Bunker Hill building fortifications and in the battle. She also stated they were married at Dunstable as the minister in Westford was sick. She gave Obadiah’s death date as the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 1827.

Her obituary was carried in the *Massachusetts Ploughman and New England Journal of Agriculture* on 28 Sept. 1844, p. 2. “In Westford, 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Mrs. Mary Perry, 96, relict of Mr. Obadiah Perry, a soldier of the Revolution...”

- <sup>9</sup> **Betsey Hildreth** was born at Westford, 28 Feb. 1796 and died at the Westford town farm, 18 Aug. 1858, daughter of Jonas and Deliverance (Johnson) Hildreth. Jonas Hildreth died at Westford, 14 Jan. 1808, frozen to death; Deliverance died there 1 March 1839. Jonas and Deliverance are interred in Westlawn Cemetery, Westford.

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In 1850, Betsey Hildreth was living with her married sister, Harriet Litchfield, in Carlisle, Mass. Harriet had married at Westford, 9 Sept. 1832, Israel Litchfield. In 1854, Betsey's brother George Hildreth of Lunenburg petitioned the court to become Betsey's guardian as she was insane. He requested permission to sell her real and personal property. On 15 March 1854 there was a Guardian's Sale of her property, and on 1 April 1854, George Hildreth, as guardian, sold her real estate amounting to about one and a quarter acres on Hildreth Street near the Cyrus Hamlin family, to Charles L. Hildreth (Middlesex County Deeds, 19:468). Details may be found in Middlesex Probate, 34152. The probate record was signed by the Overseers of the Poor, Joseph Hildreth and Ezekiel Wright.

In 1855, Betsey Hildreth, listed as insane was living with her brother George in Lunenburg. There is no record of Betsey's death in Westford published vital records, only the notation in the records of the town farm that gave her death date. George Hildreth died at Lunenburg, 10 April 1856 and his death record confirmed his parents as Jonas and Deliverance. After George's death, his wife, Lucy (Winslow) Hildreth became his executrix. Lucy's name then appears on the Middlesex probate record for Betsey with several pages listing her guardian's account involved in her care and legal fees.

The *Hildreth Family Association*, vol.4, p. 55, states, Betsy "Was disappointed in love and lost her mind as a result."

<sup>10</sup> **Thomas Carney** d. at Westford, 14 Sept. 1907.

Thomas Carney, an aged veteran of the civil war, died at the Westford town farm, where he has made his home for the past thirty years, though not an inmate, on Saturday morning, Sept. 14, at eight o'clock, aged ninety-six years. Thomas Carney was a well-known figure in this vicinity and considered the oldest man in Westford. He was a member of the Westford Veterans' association, having served with Co. K, Sixth Massachusetts volunteer infantry, during the civil war. He had always enjoyed good health and invariably participated in the Memorial day exercises until this year, when illness prevented. The immediate cause of his death was cancer. As far as can be learned he left no relatives, but had sufficient money for his needs, as well as a neat bank account, and for that reason made his home at the Westford farm as a boarder [admitted Jan. 31, 1877], rather than go to the soldiers' home, where he was not known. Mr. Carney had expressed his pleasure several times before his death at the excellent care given him by both Mr. and Mrs. Edson G. Boynton, and the town of Westford is to be commended for having such an estimable and faithful man and woman in charge of this institution.

The funeral took place from St. Catherine's church in this village on Monday morning at nine o'clock, and was largely attended. A funeral mass was celebrated by the pastor, Rev. Edmund T. Schofield, and the choir, under the direction of Miss Mary F. Hanley, sang the Gregorian chant. At the offertory Miss Hanley sang the "Pie Jesu," and at the conclusion, "He wipes a tear from every eye." The bearers, all members of the Westford Veteran's association, were J. Everett Woods, Charles Cummings, Daniel Hanley, Timothy D. Riney. Burial was in St. Catherine's cemetery, this village. [*Westford Wardsman*, 21 Sept. 1907]

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